

**Washington State Geocaching Association  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Board Meeting**

Board members in attendance: idajo (Jo Dunn), jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk(Al Funk), Kidvegas(Jim Parkman), pazooter(Bruce Clark), lucymogus(Elaine Edwards), Mc3cats(Chris Brue), hydnsek(Abby Wolfe), mazeracer(Nate Canfield), fluteface(Margaret Dunn). Guests: PaneledZero, Dgwphotos

Board members not in attendance: ezzel (Ben Ezzell)

Others mentioned during the meeting listed here for reference: Right Wing Wacko(Paul West), quadsinthemudd (Brad Jordan), trevor (of trevorandkate), meandbrea (Jen Wheeler)

The March 2011 business meeting of the WSGA was called to order by hydnsek at 7:07PM with 10 of the 11 board members in attendance at the time the meeting was called to order.

**Approval of new Inland Empire Chapter Rep**

Kidvegas was unanimously approved as the new chapter rep for the Inland Empire Chapter. Thanks to LLCool for service up to this point and the work on the 2011 WSGA Summer Campout.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of prior meeting minutes**

The meeting minutes from the January 27th Board Meeting were approved with updates.

**Membership Report**

Chapters	Indiv	Family	Assoc	Total
Puget Sound	111	32		143
North Olympic Peninsula	18	6	1	25
48 North	20	6		26
Cache-cadia	4	2		6
Inland Empire	22	6	5	33
South Central WA	12	3		15
Southwestern WA	12	3		15
Unaffiliated	2			2
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>265</b>

**Non Profit Status** - Reported by lucymogus

WSGA now has non-profit status with the State of Washington.

A couple of important items:

Nonprofit organizations who conduct periodic fundraising activities, which do not constitute the operation of a regular place of business, are exempt from the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax and the requirement to collect sales tax.

Fundraising activities include directly soliciting money or other property, or selling goods or services to further the nonprofit organization's goals. It does not include a regular place of business with regular hours such as a bookstore, thrift shop, restaurant or similar business.

In addition some locations where we host events have special pricing for non-profits.

Jcar asked: Do we get any break on sales tax ourselves. Answer: No breaks, we must pay sales tax on items purchased.

### **CITO** – Reported by hydNSEK

This is a banner year for CITO in Washington! We have 13 CITO's published so far, which I believe is a record. Half of those are in Puget Sound, but four other chapters also have CITO's lined up, including 4 in Inland Empire. Our goal is a CITO (or two) in every chapter, so encourage Cache-cadia and NOP to get something going. And kudos to South Central and Southwest for theirs - Jo, yours is one of the few ever held in Southwest. Encourage you all to encourage your members, and catchers in general, to turn out for the CITO's (or host some more), as it does wonders for our park relationships.

### **2011 WSGA Geocoin** – Reported by Fluteface

Prior to the Board Meeting the 2011 Geocoin design was chosen. There were several strong designs, but it came down between two. It was agreed via emails that the design submitted by suckerish would be the 2011 geocoin and the design submitted by NepoKama was selected for the 2012 geocoin.

We've got final art for this year's coin. I hope you've all gotten a chance to look at it in the private geocoin forum? A few notes that aren't really reflected there. This coin will be lighter than you're used to because of how it's made a different internal metal. The flag in the a is larger than originally specified because it needs to be strong enough and can't just float in the translucent metals. The quote came in at about \$3400, 100 under what I think was budgeted. It will take about 4 weeks production time once payment has been made.

HydNSEK motioned that we approve the minting of the 2011 suncatcher geocoin - 500 in black nickel, at a cost of \$3400. Jcar seconded. Ayes - 9.

There followed a discussion on pricing which was continued later in the forums for final pricing.

### **Campout Update** – Reported by acfunk

A lot has happened since the last board meeting. The campout budget was approved, the campground reservations were successfully made, the fees were set and approved. The campout event page was prepared by Brad (quadsinthemudd) and trevor (of trevorandkate), and the registration page was completed and linked by Paul. The cache page was published earlier this week, GC2QK2M. If you haven't already looked at it, take a peek cause it's pretty awesome. Lots of cool stuff is planned. Updates will be coming related to early registration prizes and events/event schedules. Many thanks to Brad and his gang for all of the progress made and effort that has gone in to getting things set up.

Hydnsek added: I hope everyone will encourage their members to attend - Brad has some amazing stuff planned!

### **Going Ape** – Reported by hydnek (Let's go APE...all over again! )

As you know, last year's Going APE event was a huge success. We had almost 500 attendees, even in the rain and chill. Even with a \$25 fee and buses and a hike from Annette Lake trailhead. We hear the Tunnel of Light will reopen early this summer so people can experience the APE cache as originally intended. We want to throw a tunnel-warming party in conjunction with Groundspeak's Block Party event. Two big events on one weekend - geocaching destination weekend, or as Groundspeak is calling it, 'International Geocaching' weekend. People are already making plans to come from around the world. The Going APE Event page went live last week, and is drawing much interest. The cache page is minimal at present, but will be fleshed out as we get things planned. I'm totally open to suggestions and help - this should be much fun! Groundspeak is supporting us, and links to our event from their Block Party page. This could be a signature event for WSGA, and I am hoping all the chapters and members will help support this event.

We aren't charging this year, as we don't have as many expenses (it cost about \$8000 last year), but we will have expenses to absorb, including refreshments, portapotties, and the park fees. It would be great to have some fund-raisers (those raffles) as well as ground support for the event itself. WSGA got press coverage and lots of great cacher comments last year, let's do it again!

The following questions were asked.

What is planned date? Sunday, Aug. 21 at Hyak

Apes? Cowboy Wayne already signed up to be Sasquatch at the cache again, all day

Do we have a sense of what activities will go on? Not yet - totally open to suggestion!  
So far, it's really just about socializing and helping people get to the APE cache.

Given the projected number of participants, is biking through the tunnel going to be discouraged that day? Nope. I even put on the event page that you can bike or hike. And suggested the one-way downhill ride to Rattlesnake if they have time and two cars.

What happens if the tunnel is delayed? AndrewRJ has some inside intel through his job, he says it should open early summer. Fingers crossed.

No details from Groundspeak yet but plans are to have a booth at the Block Party.

### **APE Coin** – Reported by hydnek

APE coin - The gold special edition was a huge hit, sold out by 10 am on GeoWoodstock day, and I still get occasional begging emails for one. We also minted a silver version, which is our ongoing regular edition and still selling those.

So, for this year's APE event, we are considering minting another limited edition coin, say 500 in copper, to be sold at the APE event and at our booth at the Groundspeak block party. As Elaine mentioned, available budget could be a factor, though. We could make some good money if we do it - it makes more than the WSGA coin.

We don't have to decide until around July 1, which is good. We have time to raise money and see how budget is doing. We already have the design and dies made, so it should be a little cheaper to mint this time around.

Sentiment of the board seems to favor the coin if we can swing it.

### **Thompson Brigade** – Reported by acfunk

Plans are moving ahead for the David Thompson Brigade events along the Columbia River. Each event will have a WSGA table set up next to a Brigade table. The WSGA tables will have information about geocaching and WSGA and will have WSGA swag for sale. Plans are moving ahead for the David Thompson Brigade events along the Columbia River. Each event will have a WSGA table set up next to a Brigade table. The WSGA tables will have information about geocaching and WSGA and will have WSGA swag for sale. Bill Erickson (our Brigade contact) has sent a draft template for the event pages. He is planning to send more info soon. The four chapters that are planned for events are in different stages of progress. The Southwest WA event (July 12 - Vancouver) is being led by Jo (idajo2) and is the most organized. Nate (mazeracer) and I are organizing the South Central WA event (July 3 - Pasco) and are getting underway.

We still need leaders for the Inland Empire event (June 17 or 18 – Kettle Falls) and Cache-cadian event (June 27 – Wenatchee). JD and Bruce, hoping you can come up with

some prospects. I will also try and scout out some prospects for leaders at the Wenatchee Cache machine this weekend.

Pazooter asked to stay in touch via email and kidvegas replied that planning was almost complete.

Idajo mentioned that the caches for the Thompson Brigade should be themed and no micros.

### **Merchandise** - Reported by jcar

Silver Ape Coins & Ape Cachekinz: We still have plenty available for sale. They continue to sell but slowly.

2009 WSGA Geocoin: Down to the last couple of dozen. An occasional order comes in for these.

After the last meeting there were several suggestions for swag/merchandise.

Notebooks/logbooks: Please see the forum post for details. While there seemed to be some interest in this, they were also almost \$2 each. We would like to put this on the backburner until we get a more general idea about costs especially with the Ape Event commitment.

Mini-pens: A batch of 1000 will be ordered soon. These will be used as swag for chapters and for the Ape Event. And if we do the notebooks/logbooks we would include one in the pouch. These seem very popular and the most inexpensive thing we have to give away.

Lanyards: These would be about half the cost of the notebook/logbooks. We have done these before, but we would like to do a slightly longer version. This would give us something new available to sell and something we could use for the chapter swag. Based on feed back we will investigate the price of these.

Business Cards: This may or may not fall into the merchandise category. We recently received a request to do business cards with the WSGA logo on them. The individual covered the expense themselves. The need was to hand something when having meetings with park representatives so that they had contact information available to contact you as a representative of the WSGA. Possibly another use would be to give to a new cacher at an event so they have contact information for you. If you feel this might be useful but do not want an entire box of cards, or maybe just want to try it we can print some off on the name tag stock, I can work with you on contact information and format. These are thinner than your usual business card stock.

Shirts: Later this year we absolutely have to come out with some new shirts and add hoodies into the mix. I get asked about hoodies more than anything except maybe sweatshirts. It would be great to have these prior to the Groundspeak Block Party, this all depends on finances, and will most likely have to wait till after the events.

idajo mentioned she had people ask about larger sizes, 3X up to 6X . . I hope those can be accommodated.

mazeracer asked about raffle tickets and if they come out of the allocation money for the chapter. hydnek replied, yes all supply expenses come from your allocation. jcar mentioned that he still had some left from last year and to contact him offline. lucymogus reported that Staples has them 1000 for ~\$12.00.

## **Chapter Reports**

### **Cache-cadia** – Reported by Pazooter

I've been busy sending out email messages (where I had addresses) along with a preliminary Cache-cadian newsletter. I also used to gecaching.com website to find past Cache-cadian members and send messages. This so far has resulted in 2 more sign-ups, taking us from a total of 6 to 8 members.

Unfortunately we will not be able to attend the Wenatchee event due to family commitments. However, one of our chapter members, the Barnabirdys will be there talking to Cachcadians who need to renew memberships plus scouting for new members.

Have also been in contact with a couple Cache-cadians about getting a CITO going in the Wenatchee area; I've been actively on it for just three days. Some progress but a long way to go.

### **South Central** - mazeracer

Wind Farm Tour - Vantage - Wild Horse facility : We will be going up next weekend (April 2nd) to talk with the folks to solidify plans for the tour. The general public is allowed to go on tours, but with us scheduling ahead of time we are able to also get their formal presentation. The presentation room will accommodate (we think) 60 people, and they can run the presentation twice per day. A minimum of 30 people are required for them to do the presentation.

The tour is an in-depth look into the facility. They actually take you into the building where power is collected. We will have to get the details when we are up there on the scouting run, but there are some requirements of closed toed shoes, use of hard hats, and Colleen said she thinks there is a required minimum age for children.

We will be trying to determine dates available for the tours (may have some booked already) and are shooting for May 20th for the tour.

We are also planning to camp over at Wanapum State Park (Vantage). They don't take reservations before May 13th. Thus the May 20th date for the tour. Right now the big thing we are wanting to try to figure out is what interest there is from other chapters. If there appears there would be sufficient interest we can talk to them about having up to 4 groups (Sat and Sun 2 groups each). Are there any questions or concerns that others would like addressed? We will ask about anything you feel worthwhile in addition to our own questions.

website: <http://www.pse.com/community/tours/Pages/WildAccess.aspx>

Richland geocoin challenge - Jen (meandbrea) Possible Barbecue and kickoff event.

CITO is in the works.

### **Southwest** - Reported by idajo

#### SW Chapter MEMBERSHIP:

Southwest Chapter registrations are in line with last year's registrations; but the overall membership number continues to be very low. I realize that paper membership applications are discouraged due to the convenience of online registration/payment but I am going to make sure that anyone who says they want to join is immediately handed a form that can be completed on the spot! I've had several potential members, at events, who are not computer savvy and would find it much easier to register via a paper format.

#### PAST EVENTS:

On February 19th the Southwest Chapter held a well-attended, well-received event at Judy's Country Kitchen in Centralia. Due to a very busy weekend morning at the restaurant - and an overabundance of cachers who'd RSVP'd at the last minute - we had muggles and cachers sharing tables . . . what a great opportunity for our members to share the (geocaching) joy!

The Chehalis/Centralia area of the Southwest Chapter has been somewhat underserved by the WSGA and the event was especially appreciated by the local cachers – several of whom noted that they'd never met another area cacher until that morning. I see that as a successful outcome of a very enjoyable event.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 30, 2011 – Vancouver Lake Park CITO – trash sacks, gloves and free parking provided by the City of Vancouver - Department of Public Works. The “will attends” are coming in and I'm looking forward to a well-attended event.

June/July 2011 - Long Beach – On April 8th I'll be meeting with Ragan Andrews, who is the Events Coordinator/Economic Activity Coordinator for the City of Long Beach. There is (free) space available for a WSGA-SW event (the Farmer's Market location behind the Police Station) – so date/time will be announced after that meeting. Ragan is familiar with geocaching and would like to see the geocaching actively promoted in that area. She asked if locals could attend the event if they wished; I assured her that the welcome mat is always out for anyone who would like to attend!

July 12, 2011 - Fort Vancouver – David Thompson Columbia Brigade Event.

The GEOregon Board of Directors notified me that – due to a very busy summer calendar - they were withdrawing their offer to collaborate on the Columbia Brigade Event. I will be putting the word out at the April 30th CITO and will, no doubt, be able to recruit volunteers for the Fort Vancouver event and volunteers to hide the two caches requested by the Brigade.

### **Puget Sound** - Reported by Mc3cats

Things are starting to heat up in the PS chapter. I have already hosted two events (Feeling the Geo Love) that was in South Tacoma in February and the “Do You Feel Lucky” event that took place in Bonney Lake last weekend. That event had about 100 people attend. Most folks that were in attendance were WSGA members. I also got two new potential members steered to signing up for membership.

Next month will be a busy one. I have two events going on during the month of April. The first is the “I’m a Brat, You’re a Brat, We are all Brats” which is an event that’s being co-hosted with psychokiwi. This is on 4/9/11. She found this pretty cool bratwurst restaurant and creamery in Kent. The place is perfect for events. This could turn into a regular place for an event. Also in April, I have my first CITO I am

In May, the City of Shoreline has asked the WSGA to man a booth during the WALKS event in 5/7. This is a short 2 hr event where we will have a booth set up on the Interurban trail to provide information on not only Geocaching but also about the WSGA as well. I am looking at this event as a “Geocaching Ambassador” event. I hope to get folks interested in geocaching and take a few more muggles off the road sort to speak. I plane t



Down the road plans include a summer picnic event. Abby and I have worked a bit on this idea. The event would include a “cammo mall” where a select number of cachers who have put out some dynamite cammoed caches will be “on display” with examples of their creations for attendees to check out. I have lined a couple of folks up for this already and will be working on getting a few more as well. I am looking at July for this

Hydnsek asked about the GSAK classes? Lots of interest in those; it's been two years since I held the last ones.

Mc3cats replied that is something Jester and I need to finalize. With all that's going on, it has gotten pushed back to the back burner. Jester is interested in doing the classes, though, so we do need to do it. Fall was suggested and hydnek mentioned the possibility of using some rooms at the YMCA in Newcastle.

#### **48 North** - Reported by FluteFace

Family issues have prevented me from being as involved so far this year as I'd like. I'm hoping to have an event by the end of April, but am sure tired of the pizza stuff. Anyway, will have something in the far north of N 48 by the end of April. We've also got a CITO in the area – one in the Pilchuck Tree Farm by Grevious Angel.

Membership my count shows 26 so far.

Mc3cats suggested a joint PS/N. 48 event up north

#### **Inland Empire** - Reported by kidvegas19

February – Events Held

1. Dog Park Cito – Teamed with Spokanimal to clean up the new dog park
2. 5th Annual Winter Event – 90+ people, chili cook off, awards, year in pictures video, IE Board Elections
3. A member hosted a Flash Mob event that was spectacularly fun

Upcoming-

1. CITO Event with the Inland Empire Girl Scouts
2. Working with the Inland Northwest Council of Boy Scouts of America to teach the NEW Geocaching Merit Badge
3. Holding a Thompson Brigade Event near Kettle Falls
4. IEC WSGA Adopt-A-Highway site(s)

5. Campout site CITO

6. Campout host – Thanks Brad! And I want to special thank Trevor for his work on the HTML for the campout page

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COTM Coin** – Reported by jcar

GONIL, cachers in Illinois also have a cache of the month. They are looking at doing a COTM coin. Not asking for money now, just looking for those that would be interested in working with them. Would be great to be part of this. Would like approval to work with Flutey and another member that would work with the GONIL group. When it comes to money will come to the board. The rep from GONIL will be in Seattle in April will try to meet with him to discuss in more details.

Acfunk asked: So would we co-produce a coin for both groups? Jcar replied: Possibly several groups. There are several COTM around the country, we just have one of the longest running ones.

Hydnsek added: The idea is that each COTM winner would get one of the coins.

The ideal situation would be if a coin maker would sell it, we could jsut buy what we needed.

Jcar and flutey will consult and work with the GONIL group.

### **WSGA Day** - Reported by jcar

Next year the WSGA celebrates 10 years of existence. In preparation it would be good to have events in each chapter over the same weekend. This would be around September 8th. This would allow us to have more visibility throughout the state as the newest in Washington page would show several WSGA events and it would get the word out about the WSGA. There is a forum thread open for discussion. This year just keep it small with meet and greets, giving a little time to talk about the WSGA and what it does. Next year we can try to be a little more elaborate. Hopefully we will have swag to hand out.

We will move discussion to the forums.

### **Chapter Boundaries** – Reported by hydnek

One of the key organizational things we want to do this year is revisit our chapter boundaries and redraw them in some areas to better reflect members and geography. The current 'boundaries' were somewhat arbitrarily drawn a few years ago for the coin that showed the chapters.

We currently have seven chapters and we want the entire state to be included in a chapter, so this makes for big areas, but we don't have enough membership in some places to break out new chapters,

But we do have some spots where the boundaries don't make a lot of sense. So we are going to start a discussion about chapter boundaries and where they should be between each chapter. For instance, IE and South Central probably want to take a look at their boundaries and propose some changes, same Puget Sound and its bounding chapters. To further the discussion, please look at the Chapters page on the website. It was updated last year to show the current 'boundaries' as they were shown on the coin (the only place that showed a map). There are some obvious oddities - Grays Harbor is listed in Puget Sound.

Next step is for all chapter reps to look at your current boundaries, talk to your members and your neighboring chapter reps, and come back with some proposals.

Goal is to complete this by summer, so we can publicize the changes, get members reassigned as needed, well ahead of elections, since this affects chapter rep areas.

A forum topic for the discussion will be started. A map will be posted that shows current boundaries in the forum discussion. Initial thoughts, questions?

Kidvegas19 asked still sticking with 7 chapters total? Hydnek replied yes, unless there is sufficient member population to break out a new chapter somewhere. It has to have long-term viability. The only new chapter currently under consideration is South Puget Sound, which has a large member base and feels distanced from Puget Sound. But that's not for sure.

FluteFace asked about a map that shows current (or last years) member distribution. We will see what can be done.

### **Bylaw Revision**- reported by hydnek

That's our other key organizational thing for this year. The Bylaws haven't been revised in several years and are missing some key items and changes that have happened. So, I'll be heading up proposed changes to them. The previous boards passed along a few items, and some members of this board have suggestions, as well. Is anyone interested in partnering with me on compiling proposed changes?

jcar volunteered to help.

lucymogus has input for the Elections section and will share with the committee that works on the bylaws.

idajo and FluteFace both moved that the March 24, 2011 meeting of the WSGA Board be adjourned.

Mc3cats seconded.

All voting Board Members voted Aye and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51PM.