

## Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

24 March 2016

AndrewRJ called WSGA's 24 March 2016 Business Meeting order at 6:47pm.

Board Members in attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Martin5 (Jerry Martin), Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), PeachandPete (Annette Bailes), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Verano (Debbi Patton), Ham\_sters (Crystal Stidham), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll), GeekandGopher (Ray/Brenda Harrison), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), avroair (Mark Clemens), geekygal (Julia Fuentes), Cool Cow Cachers (Kevin DeFields), Princess Trouble (Jacquie Vaughn)

Proxies: AndrewRJ for FenchurchE, HippyChick1620 for Mr. Gadget #2

Also in Attendance: Mc3cats (Chris Brue), obi\_wan

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AndrewRJ welcomed the board members, appointees and visitors in attendance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from 27 January 2016 were approved unanimously

*Comments:* None

#### **Election Results**

*Report by lizzy*

Board members serve for one year, with elections held each March for terms running April 1 to March 31. There are 11 elected positions: 4 officers and 7 chapter reps. The officers can come from anywhere in Washington, while Chapter reps must reside in their chapter area.

The Vice President is in charge of the election process. The first order of business was forming the Nominating Committee, which this year was comprised of the Vice President as usual, and Andrewrj and misdirection. We were also assisted by HippyChick1620 in locating and vetting

potential board nominations. This year was slow for nominations. We had many board members elect to return in their roles, but the officer positions that were being vacated were difficult to find qualified or willing nominees. Eventually, several stepped up and I'd like to thank you all who did – the club will be in good hands. We had one contested position with Avroair and Bunchacachers vying for the Vice President position. I want to thank them both for stepping up.

The election was held March 1 thru 15th, and with its close, the contested Vice Presidential position went to Avroair. All other nominees and returning board members were affirmed. We had 38% of our current member accounts vote this year. I know that all elected board members will have the full support of the retiring board members – and any assistance you may need will be offered. I strongly support the WSGA and will always be an active and present member ready to lend a hand.

The new 2016 Board of Directors – taking office as of April 1st are:

Officers -- President: Jacquie Vaughn (Princess Trouble) Vice President: Mark Clemens (Avroair) Secretary: Fen Eatough (FenchurchE) Treasurer: Kevin Defields (Cool Cow Cachers)

Chapter Representatives -- Puget Sound: Rob Norenberg (SirKarp), 48 North: Toni Westgarth (mizdirection), Cache-cadia: Gene Reed (Mr. Gadget #2), Inland Empire: Jerry Martin (Martin 5), South Central: Crystal Stidham (Ham sters), Southwest: Ray/Brenda Harrison (Geek&Gopher).

*Comments:* Verano asked how many votes were cast in the election, with Lizzy providing the answer of 103.

## **Board Appointments**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

When we held the annual WSGA Board election in March, the nominating committee was unable to find anyone willing to represent the Olympic Peninsula chapters, so that position was vacant during the election. However, shortly afterward, we had a member step forward, volunteer for the position. I'm thrilled to welcome Geeky Gal (Julia Fuentes) as Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep, giving us a complete 11-member WSGA Board of Directors for 2016. Thank you for volunteering to fill the position and support your chapter area.

At this time, I move the Board approve the appointment of Julia Fuentes as the new Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep.

Outreach Coordinator. Jenn Holland (Snowflake24) has done a fantastic job in this role, from Japan even where she was working. Unfortunately she is now traveling to Vermont where she will be continuing her education and feels that she will be unable to continue as Outreach coordinator. I would like to again thank Jenn for the hard work she has put in tracking our outreach requests.

I have spoken with Chris Brue (mc3cats), our joint outreach coordinator about taking over the tracking of outreach requests which was Jenn's primary responsibility. He has agreed to do so in addition to his portion of the coordinator role.

At this time, I move the Board approve the appointment of Chris Brue as Outreach Coordinator.

*Comments:* Geeky Gal was approved unanimously as Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep and welcomed to the board. Mc3cats was also approved unanimously as the new Outreach Coordinator.

## **Financial Report**

*Report by HippyChick1620*

January 1, 2016 Starting balance: \$16,370.15

### Income:

- Memberships: \$1,362.00
- Petty cash deposit: \$60.00
- Refunded fees: \$0.52
- (Total: \$1,422.52)

### Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$46.68
- USPS: \$247.79
- Office Supplies: \$299.05
- Chapter Allocations: \$311.08
- Refund of overpaid dues: \$18.00
- Total (\$922.60)

January 31, 2016 ending balance: \$16,870.07 (\$499.89 gain)

January 31, 2015 ending balance: \$9,587.84 (1 year comparison)

January 31, 2013 ending balance: \$10,360.87 (3 year comparison)

February 1, 2016 Starting balance: \$16,870.07

### Income:

- Memberships: \$286.00
- Merchandise sales: \$6.00
- (Total: \$292.00)

### Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$14.77

- mailing: \$5.08
- Total (\$19.85)

February 29, 2016 ending balance: \$17,142.22 (\$272.15 gain)

February 28, 2015 ending balance: \$12,747.09 (1 year comparison)

February 28, 2013 ending balance: \$10,444.50 (3 year comparison)

In March we paid our geocoin bill, which was roughly \$2,700, which puts our expenses ahead of our income.

*Comments:* There was some discussion on the fact that we made a large merchandise purchase (including the 2015 Geocoin) at the end of 2014, which reduced the amount we spent in 2015. The 2016 budget was voted on as proposed and approved unanimously.

### **Small Grant Program**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

The Small Grant Program was started three years ago as a way to provide funding to support geocaching-related projects in Washington. This year the board voted to provide a total of \$1,000 for the small grant program and we also shifted the grant application and application review dates. The new dates are as follows:

- Grant applications accepted: Jan. 15-February 15, 2015
- Applications evaluated: Feb. 15 - March 15
- Grants announced: March 16

Unfortunately we did not receive any applications this year for the small grant program. It is my hope that next year we will continue to be in a strong financial position and will continue with this program.

*Comments:* There was a question about the possibility of shifting the dates for accepting grant applications to allow for more time. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting with the new board.

### **Ape Mega-Event**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

The 2016 Ape mega-event is Saturday, Aug. 20, at Hyak in Iron Horse State Park. Without the associated Block Party this year will feel small by previous standards but we should still easily reach mega-event status. It will be nice to know that we can easily handle the crowds this year.

The event page is up, and we have signed the Mega Event agreement with Geocaching HQ. Following the end of the month we will obtain our insurance binder, and I have applied for the park permit. I have received several offers of help at the event and have begun developing a list of offers. All of the crew chiefs have agreed to come back so we are already doing well.

Comments: None

## Membership Report

Report by Lizzy

### Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns as of 3/16/2016

Chapters	Current Accounts				Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Assoc/Ind	Assoc/Fam	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	57	57	1	0	115	209
48 North	29	20	0	0	49	83
Inland Empire	13	9	5	1	28	46
South Central	12	9	1	0	22	34
Olympic Peninsula	11	7	0	0	18	28
Southwest	7	6	2	1	16	28
Cache-Cadia	9	5	0	0	14	22
Unaffiliated	0	0	1	0	1	1
<b>YTD CHAPTER TOTALS</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>LAST REPORTED</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>Net Gains</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>128</b>

Chapters	Totals at 1/21/2016		Gains This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	87	148	28	61	<b>108</b>	<b>195</b>	↗	6.48%
48 North	38	60	11	23	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	↗	6.52%
Inland Empire	19	32	9	14	<b>29</b>	<b>50</b>	↘	-3.45%
South Central	14	23	8	11	<b>21</b>	<b>35</b>	↗	4.76%

Olympic Peninsula	14	23	4	5	17	25	↗	5.88%
Southwest	11	19	5	9	14	27	↗	14.29%
Cache-Cadia	10	17	4	5	18	24	↘	-22.22%
Unaffiliated	1	1	0	0	4	4	↘	-75.00%
<b>TOTALS:</b>					<b>257</b>	<b>446</b>	↗	2.33%

Chapters	Accounts	
	New this Year	Renewals
Puget Sound	10	105
48 North	5	44
Inland Empire	3	25
South Central	1	21
Olympic Peninsula	0	18
Southwest	1	15
Cache-Cadia	2	12
Unaffiliated	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>241</b>

#### Report Detail as of 3/16/2016:

The comparisons to this time last year will be slightly off, as we reported last year's totals about a week later in the year.

With an active election this year, many members realized when they tried to vote - that their membership had lapsed. We had a surge of renewals with this election. I was happy to see that!

A virtual flood of them!

We are at around 75% of membership compared to all of 2015 (total members, not total accounts). A great start!! We have 22 new accounts year to date, with biggest boost in new members in the Puget Sound Chapter, followed by 48 North.

The trend for total membership compared to last year is up about 2%. Southwest and 48 North showing the biggest increases over last year. Congratulations to those chapters!

I am looking forward to the transition to our newest Membership Manager which is a duty the Vice President carries. I will do whatever I can to support the new Vice President in their role. I sincerely appreciate the support I received from past and present board members when things got testy - I am very grateful. Only a person who has been on the exec board truly understands the logistics and challenges of these positions.

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement that kept me going.

*Comments:* None

## 2016 Campout

*Report by AndrewRJ*

Tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery) agreed to assist with onsite activities during the last meeting and the budget was agreed upon and finalized. Our webmaster Kevin Norton is working on getting the registration page up and running for the campout. Registration is behind schedule and we will need to really push the notifications and email the membership once we get it up and running.

### Budget

Cost for Attending the Campout ----- Member ---- Non-Member

Tent Camping ----- \$30 ----- \$40

RV Dry ----- \$40 ----- \$55

RV Utility ----- \$70 ----- \$90(cost)

Dinner & Gift Bag ---- \$8 ----- \$10

Kids (under 10) ----- Free ----- Free

### Revised Budget

A revised budget using these prices and estimated attendance numbers is provided below.

### Income

----- Attendees ---- Reservation ---- Total

RVs Dry ----- 6 ----- \$40 ----- \$240

RVs Utility ----- 8 ----- \$70 ----- \$560

Tents ----- 20 ----- \$30 ----- \$600

Dinner (Adults) --- 100 ----- \$8 ----- \$800

Total Income ----- \$2,200

### Expenses

Private RV Site ----- 4 --- \$88 ----- \$352

Group Site ----- \$500

Path Tags ----- \$250

Food & Supplies ----- \$600  
Misc. Charges ----- \$28  
Total Expenses ----- \$1,730

Based on the two areas for RVs I agreed that members get first crack at the RV

### Background

We have successfully reserved the Maryhill State Park group campsite and 4 additional RV sites for the 2016 WSGA Campout. In order to ensure we got the group site for the time period we made the reservation on Wednesday, October 17, 2015 for 7 days, Wednesday, July 17 through Sunday, July 24, 2016. The reservation cost at that time was \$490.60.

On November 9, 2015, We also reserved four extra RV sites located near the group campsite to have a total of 14 to offer to our attendees. The cost for these four extra RV sites was \$352.

In January I modified the reservation and changed the dates for the reservation of the campsite to Friday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24, 2016. We were refunded \$336.72, the cost of 5 days, minus the reservation change fee of \$8.00. The final cost for the group site at Maryhill State Park is based on the number of campers with the price increasing for each 25 campers. Based on our estimated number of campers (51) we have an estimated cost for the group site of \$413.66

For this cost we receive the group camp, shelter, fire pit, 4 RV spots with hookups, and 6 RV non hookups (Dry camping). Adding the cost of the 4 RV spots with hookups also reserved in the main camping area we anticipate a total cost for all camping of \$765.66.

The total spent so far is \$505.88

### Summary

We have reservations for Maryhill State Park's Group Campsite and RV sp

### **Chum Salmon Geotour Support**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

As I believe you are all aware the State Parks have decided to conclude the State Parks Geotour this summer. They are extremely pleased with the results of the Geotour and feel that the current one has run its course. Now they are looking forward and are beginning to plan their next project. Which leads us to the request we have received. Below is the text of the email I received from Ranger Tina who has been out contact with the State Parks for the State Parks Geotour.

#### *"Project Description*

*A recreational geocaching activity that would be an interagency and land management cooperative project created as a GeoTour along the route of the Skagit Chum Salmon.*



*It would include the ocean portals where the salmon exit and return (some State Parks in that group – Deception Pass, some of the San Juan Islands, Bayview State Park, Cama and Camano Island State Park) and the State Parks along the Skagit – Rasar and Rockport.*

*Also willing agencies and land managers along the river, Skagit Parks and Recreation, City of Mt. Stanwood, USDA Forest Service- Darrington Ranger District, Fish and Wildlife and DNR.*

*The goal would be to educate people about salmon, watersheds, eagles and other wildlife that survive from the wealth that salmon bring to the area. Their existence and health woven into the health of the environment since the days of the earliest peoples and critical to the environment today.*

*Each different participating site would have a geocache that would highlight some important facts and bring the geocachers to a particular location that tells the story. There would be a total between 24 and 50 cache locations depending on how many agencies and land managers would like to be involved. (and the number of caches they would like to host at their site)*

*I would plan for getting the GeoTour started next fall about the time the salmon return, possibly October.*

*I sent a follow up to my initial inquiry to sites that indicated an interest in participating (follows);  
Skagit Chum Salmon Journey Home GeoTour.*

*I received strong response from my initial inquiry about a GeoTour tracking the Chum journey.*

#### *Project Funding*

*GeoTour \$5,000 first year*

*GeoCoins \$1,500 250 coins (does not include the cost of coin design)*

*Postage \$ 425 envelopes and postage for Coin Awards*

*Decals \$ 125 (Custom for cache containers – this is a total guess, I need to check price)*

*Total \$7,050*

*From the budget I list above I have received a commitment of \$3,000 to date. I will work on requesting funding from some sites that indicated an interest in participating, but did not respond to the funding question. I also have not yet approached tourism boards in Island and Skagit counties. I wanted to be sure I had the participation of sites to make it work.*

*Thanks for reviewing this to see if WSGA might be able to support a project like this.*

*Tina"*

My understanding is that this is the first in a series of eventual Geotours that want to list. The idea is to focus each tour on a more specific topic and spread them out around the state. This is the first and is a bit of a test to see how it would go.

Unfortunately this missed the window of the small grant program as it would have been an obvious application, it's a more recent decision. As you can see Tina has about 40% of her funding covered and is seeing if we would be willing to support this.

At this time we are only being requested to assist in funding this specific project. No specific dollar amount was requested.

Do we feel that this is something we would like to help fund? If so in what amount?

*Comments:* Motion was made and passed unanimously to table discussion on the Geotour until the new board is in place.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

*Report by FenchurchE*

Continuing with our schedule of meeting bi-monthly on the third Wednesday, it looks like our dates for 2016- 2017 will be:

May 18<sup>th</sup>

July 20<sup>th</sup>

September 21<sup>st</sup>

November 16<sup>th</sup>

January 18<sup>th</sup>

March 15<sup>th</sup>

*Comments:* It was pointed out that the original proposed dates were only for 2017, this has been corrected for the minutes.

### **Chapter Reports**

#### ***Southwest Chapter report by verano***

January's GeoTrivia event in Vancouver was great fun and had 24 attendees.

Intro to Geocaching event at Three Creeks Library had over 70 people in attendance. It was standing room only. Most were brand new cachers or those who wanted to know what geocaching was all about. Fortunately we had enough experienced geocachers there to help with the practice caches at the end. The library would like to schedule another class in late summer.

Leap Day morning event had over 40 attendees.

Last night's Pi Day event in Centralia was well received, with over 30 folks attending. Apparently no one holds events in Centralia, so they were very grateful. It was the second event I had hosted in Lewis County.

Upcoming event on May 7: Maintenance Madness, a joint event with GEOregon with a morning event in Vancouver and a wrap-up event in Portland. This event encourages cachers to go out and maintain geocaches and do CITO. Even though I will not be a Rep anymore that that time, I will still be a WSGA member and hope to represent the club well in that cooperative venture.

Upcoming Intro to Geocaching event: Stevenson Library July 23.

I will continue to attend the GEOregon meetings and let Portland-area folks know about nearby Washington events even after I am no longer the SW Rep.

I welcome Geek&Gopher back to their Rep role and know I am leaving our chapter in good hands.

### ***Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by ClayArtist***

We have had very little WSGA activity in the Olympic Peninsula Chapter for the past several months. However, all that is about to change! I am very excited to be turning over the Chapter Rep position to Julia Fuentes. I have every confidence that she will be an outstanding Chapter Representative for the Olympic Peninsula Chapter.

The geocachers in Kitsap County have been busy creating their own geocaching entertainment. The planning for the Pirate Events, in Port Orchard (on August 13), are well underway. They are crossing their fingers for a mega even, possibly. No doubt, this event is going to get the attention of every resident of Kitsap County, with the pirate ships firing canons all day. It will definitely be bringing more new geocachers into the fold, I predict.

I also had a meeting with Shannon Buxton, from Bainbridge Parks and Rec, in February. She was looking for a little help understanding more about GC.com. Apparently, they have been doing their own version of geocaching for a few years now. Actually, it's their egg hunt and they turned it in to egg geocaching. As I understand it, they place temporary "eggs" (caches) for people to find. They make a list of the coordinates for each "egg", and give this piece of paper out to people doing the hunt. Shannon is exploring whether they want to make this more official somehow. I will be putting her and Annette together, for planning for their 2017 event and they may also be applying for a small grant next year.

This is my last report, as I officially turn the reigns of the OP Chapter over to Julia. I am happy to have been able to do what I could for the Chapter and am gratified that I have met so many great people, through volunteering for the WSGA. It is very possible that I will be back to help again, one day, when my life settles down. See you all out there, in the field and at events!

## ***South Central Chapter report by Ham\_sters***

### Past Chapter Events

2/29/16 Leap into Ice Cream (GC6A5YA)  
30 Marked Attended  
(Approx. 45 people)

### Upcoming Chapter Events

There will be a CITO planned for some time in April

### Upcoming Area Events

3/19/16 Lunch with a View of the Island (GC6C9V8) by GESEWA  
Bateman Island Parking Lot, Richland, WA  
This is a lunch that will be held for all of those cachers out doing the Tri Cities Cache Machine. Stop by and have some hotdogs, hamburgers, and water.

3/19/16 Tri Cities Cache Machine Dinner III (GC6B293) by TravisL  
Stick & Stone Pizza, Richland, WA  
This will be the dinner to conclude the Tri Cities Cache Machine Event. It will be held at Stick & Stone pizza and will be a flat rate of \$20 per person. If we can get 60 attendees, Stick & Stone will open exclusively for us. Need to log "Will Attend" by March 14th so we can get a count for the restaurant.

4/24/16 CITO and a Souvenir (GC6D5WP) by esn911  
Martin Archery Parking Lot, College Place, WA  
6/25/16 Tri Cities 2016 Geocoin Challenge (GC60EZ6) by Richland, Pasco, W. Richland, and Kennewick, Visit Tri  
Sacajawea State Park, Pasco, WA  
This is the official event for the Tri Cities 2016 Geocoin Challenge. There will be a Meet & Greet event on the 6/24 and a CITO on 6/26. There will also be a couple of Geocaching 101 classes leading up to the event.

## ***Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2***

Being this is a leap year things got to hopping on Leap Day 2016, There were a total of three Leap Day events around our large chapter area. They were one in Quincy, East Wenatchee and Omak.

March is about as active with three more events on the calendar: Pi day 3.1416 on March 14, 2016; Prospecting for Gold Nuggets on 3-18-16; and Wenatchee Meet and Greet on 3-19-16.

A CITO event is in the planning for April, around the weekend of the 23rd.

FYI I will not be able to be on line for the March Meeting as we will be in Southern Utah on a desert caching adventure. At this time I would like to welcome the new board members and hope to meet with you at a later date.

### ***48 North Chapter report by mizdirection***

I very much want to give a big shout out to all of our retiring Board members! You have all been so incredibly helpful in educating and helping me! You will be missed. I am looking forward to paying forward all your help to the new board members. It will be a great new year!

It has been an awesome couple of months! WSGA members held Leap Year events around Bellingham, Friday Harbor, Burlington and possibly more that I missed.

The final details of the Rasar CITO's and Campout were worked out and published. The Salmon Group Camp will be open for arrival at 4:30pm on Friday, April 15th ( NEW CHANGE). The details are still getting added to the GC pages. Many new caches have been added along the Cascade Trail.

We have also scheduled a "May the Fourth Be With You" event at the Flyers Restaurant and Brewery in Oak Harbor on May 4th.

This year we are looking to continue doing events in areas that have been missed in past years, so that new cachers can be reached. It should be exciting!

Looking forward to working with everyone this year!

### ***Puget Sound Chapter report by SirKarp***

We had a very busy fall and early winter with events in the Puget Sound chapter, we hosted an event in Eatonville, the Haunted Nightmare Halloween event in Preston, Krampus day Meet & Greet in Lacy, The New Years eve event in Renton, and last but not least the Holiday party in Maple Valley. For the most recent period since the last board meeting I haven't put on any chapter events, but I have spent sometime planning.

#### **Up and coming events:**

We have set the reservation for the third annual Haunted nightmare event, which will be on Saturday October 22nd 2016. As in previous years we are looking for folks that are interested in helping with that event.

Though technically not a chapter event on Friday March 25th is the third annual Pickle time event in Duvall, GC6BM0M – Pickled Celery and Tolkein too, which is hosted by myself and NwStinkerbella who is my right hand woman in all the WSGA events. Did you know that March is national celery month? Or that March 25th is National Tolkien reading day? Makes for a good day to host an event, but I'm sorry it couldn't be on a weekend day this year. Actually we are lucky it's happening at all. The event will run from 2 – 4PM. I'll bring along the WGSA chapter stuff so I can support / promote the club, and take sign ups as well.

At this time I am still unsure what will happen for cito. We had hoped at one point to host a cito chapter event on April 23rd or 24th, but at this time I don't have anything setup. If nothing pans out I'll likely support another area cito event instead.

Also in the works is the Puget Sound summer picnic.

#### Events attended:

As we all know there was a geocaching souvenir for attending a leap day event. In the Puget Sound area there were lots of folks that held leap day events, so rather than putting on one of our own I choose to attend one of the local events instead. GC67PCZ – Leap to it! 2016 Leap Multi-event, which was hosted by Avroair. He had a whopping 95 attendees for the event, and let me tell you the restaurant was packed!

That is all I have at this time.

Meeting was adjourned by AndrewRJ at 8:00pm.