

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

March 27, 2014

Hydnsek called WSGA's 6th and final Business Meeting of the 2013 board term to order at 6:45 PM on March 27, 2014.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), jcar (Jim Bertrand), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel)

Board Members absent: Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Proxies: benandjayme for Geek&Gopher, Mc3cats for Mr. Gadget #2

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough, GeoCoin Manager), LouieBliss (Nicole, Parks) Sunshine Geo (Angie Harper, 2014 Campout Host), AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson, Incoming WSGA Secretary), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll, Incoming Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep) and Lizzy (Lisa Wasser, Incoming WSGA Vice President)

Visitors: Kidvegas19 (JD), TrevorandKate

Hydnsek welcomed the current and future board members and visitors in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Elections

Report by Jcar

Jcar reported that there were no opposed positions this year, so the new Board was approved by acclamation rather than holding an election, per the Bylaws. The 2014 WSGA Board of Directors is as follows:

Officers

President: Abby Wolfe / hydnek
Vice President: Lisa Wasser / Lizzy
Secretary: Andrew Johnson / Andrewrj
Treasurer: Kristine Norton / hippychick1620

Chapter Representatives

Puget Sound Rep: Chris Brue / Mc3cats
48 North Rep: Kathy McCormack / GrievousAngel
Inland Empire Rep: Jerry Martin / Martin 5
South Central Rep: Mike Lowery / tumbleweedpirates

Cache-cadian Rep: Gene Reed / Mr. Gadget #2
Southwest Rep: Vacant
Olympic Peninsula Rep: Vacant

Jcar said we unfortunately go forward with two open Chapter Rep positions, despite speaking (email/phone/personal conversations) with more individuals than any other year. Unfortunately many people have multiple obligations that prevented them from taking another on.

Jcar indicated there were several members who expressed interest in several positions for future years. We have let those that currently hold those positions know so they can start mentoring those individuals.

The Southwest Chapter Rep position is one of the vacancies. Jcar thanked Geek&Gopher for leading this chapter for the past two years. It is a challenging area with unique individuals and issues, including the GEOregon club just across the border.

Jcar indicated that the Olympic Peninsula may have had a representative come forward. ClayArtist has expressed interest, and Jcar will be speaking with her more about the position. Jcar indicated that if this goes forward, the Board will have to vote to fill this vacancy since the nomination/election period is done for this year.

Comments:

ClayArtist indicated her willingness to join the board as the Olympic Peninsula Chapter representative.

Hydnsek moved to approve ClayArtist as the Olympic Peninsula Chapter Representative and Idaho2 seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Hydnsek requested that Jcar assist ClayArtist in getting up to speed on website access, and thanked Jcar and his nominating committee for their work this year as well as Mc3cats for agreeing to serve another year as Puget Sound Chapter Rep.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 30, 2014 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Comments:

Hydnsek discussed changing the format to assist in streamlining the board meetings. Reports pertaining to the proposed agenda (Membership, Treasurer, Chapter Reps etc...) would be submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting who can compile them into a reference document for the meeting and assist in meeting minutes. This would necessitate everyone participating and reviewing the document beforehand.

Several board members indicated this was acceptable as it should help to reduce the meeting length. Martin 5 requested that the generated summary be emailed as well as posted to the forums. AndrewRJ agrees to begin compiling reports prior to the meeting to assist in streamlining the process.

Membership

Report by Jcar

Jcar reported the Membership Count and Chapter Breakdown:

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total Accounts	Total Members
Puget Sound	72	49	1	122	171
48 North	24	19		43	62
Inland Empire	14	13	6	33	46
South Central	10	10		20	30
Olympic Peninsula	10	5		15	20
Southwestern	5	4		9	13
Cache-Cadia	7	3		10	13
Unaffiliated			4	4	4
Totals as of 3/23/2014	142	103	11	256	359
Totals as of 1/30/2014	117	87	10	214	301
Totals as of 3/23/2013	168	125	7	300	425
Totals as of 3/22/2012	163	106	9	278	384

Jcar reported that since reporting in January there have been 42 renewals across all membership types. Last year at this time, we were at our best point ever for March for the club. We had just finished up an election, and the extra reminder and email that went out probably spurred some additional renewals. In addition, the State Parks GeoTour was starting up, and there was a lot of interest sparked by that, plus the prior month's COTM had sparked additional interesting, voting, and renewals.

Jcar also included the 2012 numbers, which were also higher, but nothing that cannot be caught up in coming months. As Jcar mentioned at the last meeting, there is a good dedicated core that carries the club. As long as that continues to grow, even if slowly, WSGA will be in fine shape for some time to come.

Comments

Jcar commented that several members who hid State Parks GeoTour caches have not renewed. Their renewals would help get our numbers back up to where they were last

year at this time. Hydnek requested a list of those members and said she would contact them about renewing their membership.

Finances

Report by Hippyck1620

Hippyck1620 reported that as of February 1, 2014, the club had \$15,869.03 in funds. Income for February was \$1,175.00, consisting of:

- Memberships – \$391.00
- Coin sales – \$276.00
- Other merchandise sales – \$29.00
- Campout registration – \$479.00

Expenses for February were \$1,391.86, consisting of:

- PayPal fees – \$46.84
- Shipping fees – \$117.32
- USPS – \$4.81
- Office supplies – \$81.11
- Projectors – \$683.38
- Ape event insurance – \$458.40

This left a February 28, 2014, ending balance of \$15,652.17, and a monthly loss of \$216.86.

February ran at a slight loss, as we bought 2 projectors which caused the offset this month. As of March 23rd, our income is \$568.00 and our expenses are \$43.39, so we should finish the month strong.

Chapter allotments are available in April, and Hippyck1620 reported the following chapter allotments for 2014, based on the formula created by jcar for previous years:

- Puget Sound: \$727.50
- 48 North: \$262.50
- Inland Empire: \$167.50
- South Central: \$125.00
- Cache-Cadia: \$100
- Olympic Peninsula: \$100
- Southwest: \$100

Note that these figures will be updated on Sept 1, to reflect incremental membership increases in each chapter.

Comments

Hydnsek noted that the Southwest allotment is void as that chapter will be inactive.

Mc3cats asked what happens to the Southwest allotment with the chapter going inactive. Hydnsek indicated that the money remains in the treasury for reimbursement for chapter expenses if and when Southwest regains active status.

Merchandise Report

Report by Hippychick1620

Hippychick1620 reviewed each of the proposed merchandise items in a document distributed prior to the meeting and asked for feedback on items or additional suggestions.

The Board was asked for questions and comments on each item then a vote was taken for each item.

Comments

- WSGA Club Shirts
 - Questions were asked concerning details of the trackable shirts, their demand given extra cost (AndrewRJ), and possibly having a trackable bug as well (Hydnsek). Hydnsek indicated that changes to the design could be pursued offline. NepoKama asked if the trackable shirts and APE Cachekinz would have the same online icon. It is decided to have 2 separate icons.
 - Preorders will be taken online for both trackable and nontrackable shirts, and additional shirts also will be ordered for event sales.
 - Vote for both Trackable and Non-Trackable shirts passes with 10 aye and 1 abstention.

- WSGA Whistles for the Ape goody bag with extras to sell
 - One comment was made questioning the market for extra whistles (GrievousAngel) and one comment that only because they were cheap (Benandjayme).
 - Vote for WSGA Whistles passes with 10 aye and 1 nay.

- WSGA logo Cachekinz as 2014 Member Bonus and extras to sell
 - A discussion was held concerning cost versus number to purchase. Tentatively a number of 850 was chosen.
 - Vote for WSGA logo Cachekinz passes unanimously.

- Trackable Nametags
 - Benandjayme indicated he thought the shirts would sell better.
 - Vote for Trackable Nametags fails with 7 nay and 4 aye.

- First Aid Kits
 - Tumbleweedpirates strongly pushed for first aid kits. Hydnek and AndrewRJ expressed concern with the high cost of the kits.
 - Vote for First Aid Kits fails with 8 nay and 3 aye.

- Water Bottles
 - It was discussed that the WSGA has sold water bottles in the past with poor results and that the cost was generally higher than seemed reasonable.
 - Vote for Water bottles fails unanimously.

- Water Bottle Holder
 - The vote was tabled pending additional pricing information.

- WSGA Car Flags
 - Martin5 indicated he thinks they would be good for events and HippyChick1620 thought of them for the board members. Hydnek indicated that she had purchased a Geocaching.com car flag but rarely uses it.
 - The vote was tabled pending additional pricing information.

- WSGA Log Books
 - No discussion.
 - Vote for WSGA Log Books passes with 7 aye, 3 nay, and 1 abstention.

Following voting, Tumbleweedpirates mentioned looking into cheaper first aid kits and window stickers with trackable numbers. Hydnek asked that this be discussed offline if there was interest.

2014 Geocoin

Report by NepoKama

NepoKama reported that the 2014 coins have been delivered and are receiving a lot of compliments. Due to ongoing issues with Oakcoins, we have begun working with a new vendor, Cache Addicts, which was just acquired by Cache Advance (owned by WSGA member Lookout Lisa). NepoKama is working with Cache Advance to train its new geocoin manager (WSGA member Kidvegas19).

NepoKama has been working with the cities of Mount Vernon and Buckley to provide geocoin design and logistics support for summer geocaching events.

The reorder of the WSGA pathtag is in production and should ship in the next 2-3 weeks. After the reorder, we have approximately \$40 Pathcash balance for use on the next order.

Comments

Benandjayme indicated that he thought 120 coins had been sold so far. Hydnek lamented the drop in coin sales over the years.

Small Grant Program

Report by benandjayme

Benandjayme reported that last month we received two applications for the Small Grant Program: one submitted by Peach&Pete on behalf of Auburn Parks and Recreation and the other submitted by VonDeets on behalf of the Mount Vernon Parks Foundation.

Both were strong applications with funding requested to support geocaching education and awareness in those communities. The Auburn application was particularly exciting because Auburn Parks and Recreation promised Peach&Pete a significant matching contribution if their WSGA application was successful.

After a few rounds of discussion, the Executive Committee recommended \$250 awards to both applicants. The full Board of Directors approved that recommendation unanimously. Hydnek has notified both applicants of their success and Hippycheck1620 is working with them to distribute the funds.

Hydnek asked benandjayme to share any thoughts on potential changes to the program following this initial experience, benandjayme added the following potential changes.

1. Under the Project Guidelines section of the Small Grant Program description, remove the first guideline requiring a proposal that is "specific to geocaching in Washington State". Although the intent of that guideline was to encourage projects that were very focused on geocaching, one possible reading of the guideline is that projects with an effect outside geocaching would not be eligible. We don't want to discourage projects that with positive effects on geocaching and other activities, and I believe that the need for a strong geocaching connection is still adequately captured by the next guideline which requires relevance to the WSGA's mission. Thus, I now think the first guideline is superfluous.
2. Allow more time in the program timeline for the evaluation of grants. Even a full month to go through applications felt a bit rushed this year given all the back and forth communications required between various board members and applicants. If the goal is to again announce grants before the April 1 seating of new board members, I'd suggest shifting the application acceptance period to January 1-31 and the evaluation period to February 1-March 15. That will give more time for application acceptance and evaluation. With much more lead time to publicize

- the program next year, the club wouldn't need to have such a condensed timeline as we did this year.
3. Include a section in the program description detailing any types of expenses that are excluded from funding. This year we had one application that requested funding for geocoins to be awarded for completing a geotour. The executive committee felt that geocoins probably shouldn't be an eligible expense for Small Grant Program funds. Fortunately, that application also requested funds for other purposes, but perhaps geocoins and any other types of expenses that don't feel like a good use of WSGA funds ought to be explicitly excluded as potential Small Grant expenses?
 4. Raise the total funding pool for the program! This year we offered a total pool of \$500 and we had two applications that easily consumed that funding pool with robust projects. I'm hoping that the club will have more quality applications with much more lead time for the second year of awards. Upping the total available funding pool wouldn't require awarding the entire pool, of course, but if the club continues to have solid finances I think it would be great to have the possibility of more awards for worthy projects.

Comments

Hydneks indicated that both parks were quite excited at their awards, and she sent out a mini press release to all our park contacts, several of whom congratulated their peers. Groundspeak was also excited to hear about this program. She thanked benandjaye for developing the program.

Hippychick1620 indicated that the checks were going out the next day.

2014 Summer Campout

Report by KidVegas19 for Sunshine Geo

The Campout Committee reserved 19 RV spaces and the group site for tents at Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park. There is access to a small picnic shelter and the ranger will provide extra tables for our pot luck. There is an extra-large fire pit in the group site for our gatherings.

- There are 11 paid reservations so far
- 5 RV sites and 6 tents with 24 dinners

Event page registrations that have not paid:

- Approx. Additional 5 camp sites & 15 dinners

Pathtags

- Design is expected to be complete within a week or two.
- The Campout Committee will be presenting it to the Board for approval.

Web pages

- There are glitches in the online registration process. Lizzy was not able to pay for the dinner-only option, so perhaps this issue can be worked on offline. (*Post-meeting note: Issue resolved.*)
- The event page is being updated as activities are confirmed.

Proposed activities – On Site

- Yard games & disc golf
- Bobbing for apples
- Kid's crafts:
 - Leather working
 - Lanyard Lacing
- Water Challenges:
 - Sponge relay
 - Water balloon toss
- Geo Challenges:
 - Micro to Ammo toss
 - Micro spoon relay
- Evening group fires
- Ranger lead program at the amphitheater to include local geology and caching information

Proposed activities – Off Site

- Geo Puzzle Art:
 - 42 puzzles are placed (Thanks Mr Gadget)
 - Puzzles pages are built and the puzzles are being created
 - Expected date for publishing is April 15th
- Steamboat Rock Letterbox Hike (possibly 12 letterboxes with Sunshine Geo working on permitting)

In addition the campout committee has the Saturday dinner mostly planned as well as the Sunday breakfast.

Comments

KidVegas19 asked for suggestions for business donations. KidVegas19 asked if the Inland Empire would lose its rotation hosting the campout since it is helping Cache-Cadia with the current campout. The consensus was that IE would not lose its place in the rotation, but was greatly thanked for helping out.

State Parks Update

Report by Hydnsek

GeoTour

The 2013 Washington State Parks Centennial GeoTour has been successful far beyond the expectations of WSGA or the State Parks. More than 3,000 people have logged at least one of the 103 GeoTour caches, with over 600 cachers finding 5 or more GeoTour caches, indicating active participation. See finishers and statistics.

The GeoTour caches collectively have over 19k finds, and more than 1700 Favorite points. Four caches have won Cache of the Month honors. 147 cachers have claimed Silver coins (50 caches), and 32 cachers the Gold coin (100 caches).

State Parks management sent a survey to park managers asking their thoughts on geocaching and the GeoTour, and they responded very positively, as has Parks management. We've also received several letters (actual paper ones!) and emails from participants, saying how much they enjoyed it.

We are coming to the end of the one-year State Parks GeoTour on geocaching.com. The caches and unofficial challenge could continue without the GeoTour page, but it has been very effective as a marketing tool, with its map and list of caches.

Groundspeak has of course approached the WSGA about renewing the GeoTour for a second year. The standard price is \$2500, but Hydnsek negotiated a \$1500 renewal, with the recommendation that it be split between WSGA and the State Parks, each of us paying \$750 (the way we split the coins last year).

Ranger Tina, our partner on the State Parks side, agrees with this approach, and is currently getting approval for the funding on her end.

To proceed, the WSGA needs Board approval for the funding.

Therefore, Hydnsek moves that the WSGA Board approve \$750 to pay for a second year of the Washington State Parks Centennial GeoTour.

Comments

Benandjayme abstains from the vote due to conflict of interest.

NepoKama asked if a new challenge coin would be made for this upcoming year. Tumbleweedpirates would like additional coins added. Hydnsek indicated that at this time there is no new funding for additional coins, just continuing the GeoTour.

Martin5 asked what happens if the State Parks can't get their portion of the funding. Hydnsek indicated that the geochallenge would continue, just not the GeoTour.

Tumbleweedpirates indicated he was unsure of the continued interest without extra coins as a prize and indicated a smaller interest in his chapter area.

Mc3cats felt that this was in line with one of WSGA's core purposes – supporting caching in state parks – and should be supported.

Vote to fund half of the second year of the State Parks GeoTour passes with 7 aye, 2 nay, 1 abstention, and 1 absent.

Compliance Project

The Compliance project entails getting permits for all pre-existing, non-permitted caches on state park lands. Hydnek reported that the deadline has again been pushed back, due to changes within the State Parks system. The Compliance project will now start in September of this year (2014), per Parks management, and be completed by year-end. This has been a moving target, but the parks are quite understaffed, about to undergo a restructuring, and they are still working to develop a smooth process for permitting geocaches.

Hydnek said this project will happen and permits will be required, as it's written into the State Parks Geocaching Directive, specifically added by the state because cache owners didn't get their permits under the previous system.

Here is the requirement in the Geocache Directive:

VI. EXISTING GEOCACHES

The owner of any cache placed prior to the date of this Directive will bring the cache into conformance with this Directive (including obtaining a Cache Placement Permit) or remove it within 60 days of the date of this Directive.

Hydnek noted that we have gone far beyond the 60 days, at the request of the State Parks, but the intent is still to adhere to the Directive.

She provided an update from her partner at the State Parks, Ranger Tina Dinzl-Pederson, based on an internal management meeting:

“Region Managers will be working with all of their direct reports to move geocache applications quickly and to respond to the applicants in a timely manner. Stewardship staff are on board as well. Parks will retain copies of approved applications. If you hear this is not happening please let me know so I can figure out any roadblocks.

"Compliance Project – At this stage of the season and with many changes field staff have to implement, the Region Managers prefer postponing any work on the compliance project until this fall. Let's plan on rolling this out, or at least getting the information out, in early September.

"Would you please pass this information on to WSGA members so they know the status of getting caches into compliance. We appreciate the support of the

geocaching community as we move forward. These are times of great change for Washington State Parks. The partnership on the WASStateParks100 GeoTour brought positive change and much enjoyment to the people that participated.

"I just got a note today from a participant saying "My wife and I really enjoyed the tour. It got us to visit many parks and parts of the state that we had never been to before" Please pass this thanks along as well to the group." - Tina

Block Party 2014

Report by Hydnek

The 2014 Geocaching Block Party is Aug. 16 this year, the day before the WSGA Ape mega-event, as always. Per the agreement with Groundspeak, WSGA will again have a free booth. Hippychick1620 will be booth manager this year, and plans to draft a co-manager.

Ape Mega Event

Report by Hydnek

The 2014 Ape mega-event is Sunday, Aug. 17, at Hyak in Iron Horse State Park.

Hydnek has agreed to stay on one more year as director, and mentor two assistant directors, Hippychick1620 and AndrewRJ, who will take over event management in 2015.

The event page is up, with 130 Will Attends so far. Hydnek has signed the Mega-event agreement, and Groundspeak is cross-promoting it from the Block Party page. Hippychick1620 has obtained our insurance binder, and Hydnek will be applying for the park permit shortly.

The current event format is working well, so we won't be making big changes from the attendee's point of view, except for parking, which will be revised to potentially include additional lots and shuttles.

Behind the scenes, restructuring of the staffing is occurring to better accommodate the event's growth, including increasing the number of volunteers, esp. in parking. We will have more of a team management approach, with crew chiefs who manage their areas, and the assistant directors will split oversight of the various areas. This will train more folks, and reduce the workload on the event director.

We are happy to announce that we have some crew chiefs lined up: AndrewRJ - Parking, Hippychick1620 - Swag Sales, Lizzy - Swag preorders, FenChurchE - Tunnel

Monitors. We also have folks in mind to head up the Welcome and Refreshments stations, and hope to announce them soon.

There will be an initial call for volunteers in April; we are continuing the unified recruitment approach so there's no overlap in volunteer requests, and so we can assign folks where needed.

AndrewRJ, HippyChick1620, Lizzy and Hydnek are meeting on April 27 for overall event planning, and will schedule a meeting with the team leads in May.

Comments

NepoKama said that the initial Ape coin design ideas have been posted to the forums for review.

BenandJayme indicated that Groundspeak is looking into possibly providing a shuttle bus from Seattle to Hyak with additional details to follow. Hydnek asked for a contact to talk to at Groundspeak.

Park Liaison Report

Report by Louie Bliss

Congratulations were given to Mount Vernon Parks (VonDeets) and Auburn Parks (Peach&Pete) on being the recipients of our inaugural Small Grants. As Hydnek mentioned in the announcement, Auburn Parks is matching funds for their grant. Louie Bliss has been working with Peach&Pete on the Auburn Parks project. They are hosting a Geocaching 101 class on April 5 (unofficial Geocaching event), placing a series of geocaches, pondering a potential GeoTour.

We are very excited for both projects and can't wait to see what comes of them.

Comments

Hydnek indicated that there haven't been any issues with park systems this year. The park contact for Discovery Park has changed, and our liaison, Rod Gowdy, says the new contact is happy with the cache placements.

Website Overhaul

Report by hydnek and jim_carson

Hydnek met with our new webmaster, Jim Carson, and assistant webmaster, Kevin Norton, on Jan. 31 to discuss the new website and its components, which included input from jcar, HippyChick1620, and others.

Our revised planning doc is available on request, and was emailed to Board members ahead of this meeting, along with JimC's email on site technology and functionality. This information is also in a Board of Directors forum thread.

We agreed on WordPress for our new site software, and JimC will be responsible for implementing it and building out the site. Kevin is researching the modules for Chat, Membership, and the Store. Considerations are compatibility with WordPress, functionality that meets our needs, and price.

JimC has already been prepping the new technology behind the scenes, and Kevin has done some research on Chat options. One of our challenges with Chat is that we need a way to capture the discussion in Board meetings for the Minutes, and most current Chat software doesn't provide that, as it's more audio/visual.

Next steps:

Hydnsek chooses a WordPress template and begin pulling over content and creating new pages for Jim to stage. We choose Chat module and begin testing, and look at Store and Member module options.

The new goal is to have it up by fall (if not sooner). Project bandwidth is limited for all of us, and our availability varies. Good news is, we have the right folks with the right expertise on the project, and hope to have something to show you soon.

Comments

Several board members indicated that they have seen a new version of the website lately and really like the changes.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound Chapter report by mc3cats

I held an event this past weekend down in Thurston County (Lacy). We ALWAYS have a great turn out down there. We held the event at Izzys which has taken care of us every time we have been there. With the Hermiston, OR cache machine going on the same day, we still filled Izzy's party room! We had a great time and had several cachers who attended their first WSGA event at that event.

In February, I had an event in Burien, however, due to a death in the family, I missed the event. However, Terrible T's covered for me and did a fine job in my absence.

As for future events, I will be doing something in May and then our annual picnic in July. I am thinking a state park venue for the picnic. Possibly Kanaskat-Palmer or Nolte State Park. Still working on the details.

We also hosted a GSAK workshop on March 15, led by Rambudo. We had 8 attendees and it went really well.

Thats all I have. I hope to get the summer picnic PS event up within the next month or two.

Comments

Hydnsek thanked Mc3cats for agreeing to be the Puget Sound Chapter Representative another year.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by idajo2

I have no formal Chapter Report this evening. As most of you know, Olympic Peninsula Chapter activities have been significantly impacted by medical issues for a number of months. However, I do have a quick (and heartfelt) message to one and all.

Tonight is my “swan song” as the Olympic Peninsula Chapter Representative to the WSGA (with the exception of continuing to capture the BOD meeting text (if/as needed) for the Minutes until such time as a new process can be put in place). Best of luck to the new WSGA Board Members with special thanks to ClayArtist for her willingness to step up to the plate for the Olympic Peninsula Chapter! I wish the retirees the very best and commend the returnees for their continued service to the WSGA and the geocaching communities throughout the State! THANK YOU ALL for the support over the years!

Comments

The Board thanked idajo2 for her three years of service.

Southwest Chapter report by benandjayme for Geek&Gopher

We have been working with Cub Scout pack 563 and the Vancouver Housing Authority RISE & STARS Community Center to help introduce geocaching activities in our community over the past few months.

We plan on being good stewards for geocaching in our area even though we will no longer be the WSGA Southwest representatives. As we are still members of the WSGA I am sure that we will see everyone at events across the state.

Comments

Mc3cats indicated that he held the Lacy event in part to scout for a new Southwest chapter rep and he may have some ideas. He will keep the board informed of any new developments.

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

We spent much of March setting up for Cache Machine, though not WSGA related it seemed important because we all knew they were in need. Then I hosted a couple meetings during a coin show and a cache container contest at another meeting

We are helping a Walla Walla with a CITO end of April and they have our banner on the web page.

Another member is hosting a event here next week and our banner is on their page also, at both of these I am giving swag. Though they wanted first aid kits.....

Then we will be having a CITO in Tri-Cities in May. Several Power Trails are showing up in prep of the Tri-City Geocoin event at end of June. We are just a few logs short of MEGA on that event and one of our members is setting up a GEO ART for that weekend also.

Comments

Hydnsek indicated that South Central did an outstanding job of supporting the Cache Machine by checking all the caches on the route, and hosting the CM lunch. She opined that since Travis is a WSGA founder, it's kinda WSGA-related, and that we are all about supporting geocaching in general.

Hydnsek indicated it was great to hear about the Walla Walla CITO and that she was glad they are flying the WSGA banner on the page.

Mc3cats and Hydnsek commented that tumbleweedpirates has been very active and done a good job growing chapter membership as well, welcoming him back for another year.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

We had our annual Winter Party in February with an Olympic theme. It was a great event with 31 attended logs posted.

Our next Chapter event is a CITO on April 26th (GC5021X) on some State DNR land located northwest of Spokane.

There have been several non-chapter hosted events in the local area the past couple of months. I personally hosted my 3rd annual Presidents Day hike and 3rd annual St. Patrick's Day CITO. Cache Advance/Lookout Lisa are hosting a Makers Event on April 2nd (GC4ZBXK) and there is another Makers event in Hayden on April 7th (GC4ZQ7E).

Lookout Lisa (Lisa) and kidvegas19 (JD) are getting married on April 19th (GC4XHRC) and their wedding reception is going to be a geo-event.

We have a new local Chapter board this year, with Trevor and Kate (Darth Trevor) as President and The TC Life (Rich) as Vice-President. Lookout Lisa is our Quartermaster and the keeper of the Chapter stuff at Cache Advance.

Comments

Hydnsek welcomed Martin5 back for a second year as chapter rep and for having the IE assist with the hosting of this years campout.

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

Mr. Gadget #2 was not present and did not send a chapter report.

48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel

Things have been pretty quiet. We supported Rey del Roble with some swag for Great Balls of Fire and held a puzzle-solving workshop. Thanks to The Winter Trio, we also offered a GSAK workshop last month. Our next on event is on April 19 on Guemes Island, GC515YX Guemes Getaway.

State Park Mapping

Benandjayme indicated that he and Moun10bike have tried to speak with Lisa Lantz and Ranger Tina at the State Parks a few times, but no concrete progress has been made. There seems to be interest in moving forward, but Ben was not sure what best next steps would be.

Comments

Hydnsek asked benandjayme to keep her and Louie Bliss informed of any progress.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaw Amendments

Report by hydnek

The 2014 Executive Committee had several Bylaw amendments to propose. The proposed changes are as follows:

Article 6: Officers - There's a minor wording change, and the task of acting as registered agent was moved to the Treasurer's responsibilities, as that's where it actually resides. Hippychick1620 performs this duty currently.

Article 7: Chapters - A section was added to address the case of inactive chapters - what happens if they are inactive, and the requirements for reactivation. This oversight came to light in the recent elections, when we had no candidates for chapter representative for the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest chapters.

Article 8: Committees and Appointments - The standing committees are reduced to two, as Park Advocacy isn't core functionality, and besides, it's now an appointed position. The other changes are cosmetic, switching the order of two items and removing unnecessary examples.

Article 9: Elections - Fixed a grammatical error.

Comments

No comments were made, and a motion to approve all changes passed with 10 aye and 1 abstention.

Hydnsek again thanked the retiring board members and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.