

## **Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting**

**20 May 2015**

AndrewRJ called WSGA's first Business Meeting of the 2015 board term to order at 6:33pm.

Board Members in attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), FenChurchE (Fen Eatough), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll), Martin5 (Jerry Martin), and PeachandPete (Annette Bailes).

Board Members absent: Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Verano (Debbie Patton)

Proxies: tumbleweedpirates for Verano, HippyChick1620 for Lizzy (first part of meeting)

Also in Attendance: Mc3cats (Chris Brue)

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Minutes from 26 March 2015 were approved unanimously

*Comments*

None

#### **Financial Report**

*Report by HippyChick1620*

March 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$12,747.09

#### **Income:**

- Memberships: \$247.00
- Misc. sales: \$64.00
- Coin Sales: \$42.00

- Campout: \$162.00
- (Total: \$515.00)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$21.63
- Order shipping: \$15.26
- USPS: \$46.11
- Supplies: \$116.98
- Dues overpayment refund: \$12.00
- Secretary of State filing: \$10.00
- APE event insurance: \$458.40
- Small Grant Program: \$1,100.00
- Chapter Allocation: \$113.56
- (Total: \$1,893.94)

March 31, 2015 ending balance: \$11,368.15 (\$1,378.94 loss)

March 31, 2014 ending balance (1yr comp): \$15,578.76

March 31, 2012 ending balance (3yr comp): \$7,604.46

March 31, 2010 ending balance (5yr comp): approx. \$5,000.00 (no actual figure given)

April 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$11,368.15

Income:

- Memberships: \$314.00
- Misc. sales: \$81.00
- Coin Sales: \$186.00
- Campout: \$80.00
- (Total: \$661.00)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$25.29
- Order shipping: \$14.82
- USPS: \$83.80
- Supplies: \$7.37
- Merchandise refund: \$60.00
- Campout refund: \$50.00
- Merchandise order: \$198.56
- Geotours: \$1,500.00
- (Total: \$1,939.84)

April 30, 2015 ending balance: \$10,089.31 (\$1,278.84 loss)

April 30, 2014 ending balance (1yr comp): \$15,215.90

April 30, 2012 ending balance (3yr comp): \$8,423.34

March 31, 2010 ending balance (5yr comp): approx. \$5,000.00 (no figure given, closest figure found)

In May we are currently running about \$290 in income and \$530 in expenses.

### *Comments*

HippyChick1620 reported on chapter allocations and explained the allotment formula:

Allocations are figured this way: \$200.00 base for 10 minimum memberships.

Once 10 memberships are reached, each additional individual/associate membership adds \$6.50 and family membership adds \$9.00 to the total. Allocations as of March 23, 2015 are shown below. Updates will be figured in early September to account for new membership numbers.

Format = individual-family-associate individual-associate family=amount:

Puget Sound: 65-43-0-0=\$944.50

48 North: 24-21-1-0=\$486.50

Inland Empire: 11-10-7-1=\$351.00

South Central: 11-10-0-0=\$296.50

Olympic Peninsula: 10-7-0-0=\$263.00

Southwest: 6-5-2-1=\$231.00

Cache-Cadia: 12-6-0-0=\$267.00

### **2015 Campout**

*Report by LadyCosmic*

Things are progressing with the planning of the campout. As of 5/15/15, 10 of our 14 RV spots (4 left) are taken and we have 10 tents registered so far. In the number of people we have registered so far we have 50 Adults and 26 Children (under the age of 10). The deadline to register is July 15 so we are just under two months until the registration deadline.

Kristine has reached out to a few businesses for donations. I will be sending a letter to Groundspeak to see if they can donate anything. I have letters that I can send out but I do not know where to send them. Any ideas as to where to send them would be greatly appreciated. This is not a strength of mine.

I am still looking for people to help at the campout. If anyone has any suggestions on people to contact for help, please send me their name and contact information. Here is what I am looking for:

- [ ] Grills (2-3) on Saturday night and Sunday Morning
- [ ] Grill Masters (1 for each grill for each meal)
- [ ] Ice chests (4 large, for beverages)
- [ ] Helpers (2 per meal)
- [ ] Long tables (these would be for putting the food on so that we can use the picnic table to eat at)
- [ ] Pop-up canopies (2-3 to cover the long tables with the food on them)
- [ ] People to help with activities at the Campsite on Saturday. Not sure how many at this time as we have not narrowed down what we are doing.

Pathtag for the campout is still in the works. Both Andrew and I have talked to Mitch. Mitch could not come up with an alternate design as all of them he comes up with looks generic in the little space he has to work with. Both Andrew and I have told Mitch to go ahead with the Torpedo design to see what he can come up with. I am hoping to get this finalized and to print before the end of the month.

### **APE Mega-Event**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

I held a planning meeting with my assistant directors, HippyChick1620 plus Lizzy, on April 25.

#### **Highlights:**

- **Numbers:** As of May 17 there are 425 will attend logs. This is about 100 will attends short of the total of will attends from last year and we are still 3 months out. We have seen huge increases due to the last Block Party. We anticipate a 30% to 50% increase in total attendance, which could potentially push us to over 2200 attendees.
- **Ape Swag Bag:** We will have a similar tote bag with shoulder straps, and will contain the event coin, event shirt, an iconic ape hat pin, a WSGA/APE Clip on light, and a minipen. Swag Bag cost will be about the same as last year (\$18), and we will sell them for \$30 during June preorders, (Since we will be in production in July, we will estimate a number for the follow-on preorders, and if we run out, that's it.) No Swag Bags will be sold at the event, only individual items.
- **Event coin:** Design is not currently finalized as our merchandise manager has been out of the country for work. We are working on a cutout of the ridge and mountains with the tunnel in the foreground. We also have a backup design based on cost and timing. Final design details will hopefully be completed by the end of the month so we can get designs off to the mint.

- **Event shirt:** Not Finalized
- **Parking:** We anticipate our largest event ever with the end of the Block Party. We will be continuing with the designed plan from last year with the addition of the upper ski lot as needed.
- **Crew chiefs:** We have all our area managers in place with the exception of Parking, and we'll be holding a Crew Chiefs meeting in June. Tunnel Monitors – FenchurchE. Welcome – Frisky Biscuits (Christine). Swag Preorders – Lizzy. Swag Sales – HippyChick1620. Refreshments – Peach&Pete. Lab caches – jcar.
- **Welcome:** Frisky Biscuits (Christine) will be overseeing the welcome table (name tags, glow sticks temporary tatoos, maps, questions), the TB Depot, the WSGA table (club info, GeoTour info), and the creatures (Apezilla, et al).
- **Volunteers:** I will be sending out the recruiting calls for volunteers by the end of May. Several folks have already signed up proactively.
- **Lab caches:** We will be doing a series of these event caches, which are currently only available to mega-events. Jcar and mc3cats are partnering to create them, in consultation with Groundspeak.
- **Overall Costs:** We are in line with our projected costs, however several items have significantly gone up. The permit for the event has risen this year from \$100 to \$500 and we have been asked to provide additional portable toilets so costs have risen there as well instead of a projected savings by using a different vendor.

### *Comments*

AndrewRJ will be scheduling a meeting for Crew Chiefs. Lynette Fuge (FugeFinders) is the Crew Chief for Swag Sales. Still looking for a Parking Crew Chief. PeachandPete suggested getting bags with a bottle holder this year.

### **TriCities Geocoin Event Support**

*Report by AndrewRJ*

During the previous board meeting I was authorized to peruse sponsorship details for the TriCities Geocoin Challenge with Jen Davis.

**Jen has finally gotten the needed approval from her higher ups and has sent us the following:**

“Yes, we finally figured out a few things that WSGA could possibly help us with. If you can wonderful, if not I understand.

- Our Sunday CITO event is growing. The first couple of years it was very small, but last year we had over 75 people attend. Many of the committee members pitched in to help with the cost last year, since that is not something that the departments can budget for. Starbucks is willing to donate coffee again this year, Richland P&R will supply bags, gloves, hand sanitizer but if we could have your assistance with continental breakfast

(muffins/pastries from Costco, juice, plates, napkins, and possibly a few fun CITO give aways.) - \$200

- This year the WSGA tent will host video recording for future promotional use for the Tri-Cities Geocoin event, Tumbleweedpirates and WSGA if you are interested in this. Currently WSGA has secured a motor home to perform “Confessions of a Geocacher” interviews. We will be asking unique geocaching questions, to give it some humor. Mike (Tumbleweedpirates) is taking over this adventure. He alone will make it funny. Supplies needed for this activity are a video memory card and signage. - \$100
- We are working on a few life size cut outs of geocaching figures for photo opportunities and a three foot trackable metal coin of last year’s coin. Mike says it is the largest geocoin in the world!?! We are also making a few larger than life trackables that will be placed around the park. - \$200
- WSGA prizes, coins, memberships would be wonderful? Do you ever give away free WSGA memberships? Just a thought.

If WSGA could assist with any of these, that would be wonderful. If not, no worries. If you are able to be a sponsor, we will advertise for WSGA in all ways possible. The WSGA logo will go on our Website as well as shout outs at the event. The life size photo opportunity will be at the WSGA booth, which will give WSGA additional advertisement.

Thank you, Andrew, for your willingness to assist.”

### **Summary**

We are being asked for a total of \$500 and some swag/memberships as our contribution to help sponsor this event. In exchange we get our logo and recognition basically everywhere any other sponsor would. I feel that this is a worthwhile request and one that makes good use of our funds. I feel that the amount is in line with what we receive in return.

**Therefore I would Motion to sponsor the TriCities Geocoin Challenge in the amount of \$500 plus a donation of swag and memberships.**

### *Comments*

Vote was taken on motion to sponsor the TriCities Geocoin Challenge in the amount of \$500 plus a donation of swag and memberships and passed unanimously with one abstention.

### **GeoTour Sponsorships**

*Report by hydnek*

Washington State Parks GeoTour: At the March Board meeting, the Board approved \$750 to fund half of the third year of the GeoTour. Kristine has forwarded the funds, and the State Parks has signed the agreement with Groundspeak for a third year. As previously noted, there was a second minting of the prize coins last year, and several caches were recently maintained (including new stamps), so we are in good shape for the third year, and with the great weather, we are seeing lots of logs from folks continuing to work on the GeoTour as well as new participants. Ranger Tina and I are talking about having events at a few parks around the state one weekend this summer (probably July) to raise awareness about the GeoTour with newer cachers and reenergize current participants.

Visit Rainier Centennial GeoTour: Preparation for the Rainier GeoTour is on schedule; I am serving as geocaching project manager, assisting Julie Johnson of Visit Rainier. The GeoTour launch date has moved out one week, now launching June 13. The Kickoff event is posted; it will be 3-5 pm in Ashford, following the annual Rainier CITO at Longmire. Visit Rainier is very appreciative of WSGA's \$750 sponsorship that the Board approved at the March Board meeting, and we will be listed as sponsors in all marketing. (Among other things, the funds are supporting purchase of the 100 cache containers and contents, and sending them to the cache owners.) All 25 caches for the first series are assigned and being placed this month; a few folks who promised Julie they'd place caches reneged, but I recruited additional cachers, and we have 13 cache owners for the first series. I'm pleased to report that we will have caches inside the park – Ranger Kevin Bacher (K2D2) and ohjoy! are working together to place earthcaches for each series in Mount Rainier NP. Finally, the first pathtag prize is at the mint (you can see it in the background of the kickoff event page); thanks again to Mitch for agreeing to design the pathtag series and geocoin.

*Comments*

None

**Membership Report**

*Report by Lizzy*

**Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns as of 5/17/2015**

Chapters	Current Accounts				Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Assoc/Ind	Assoc/Fam	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	69	47	0	0	116	209
48 North	25	21	2	0	48	88
Inland Empire	12	13	6	2	33	63
South Central	11	10	0	1	22	37
Olympic Peninsula	13	7	0	0	20	28
Southwest	9	9	2	1	21	39

Cache-Cadia	12	6	0	0	18	24
Unaffiliated	0	0	4	0	4	4
<b>CHAPTER TOTALS</b>	151	113	14	4	282	492
<b>LAST REPORTED</b>	139	102	14	2	257	446
<b>Net Gains</b>	12	11	0	2	25	46

Chapters	Totals at 3/23/2015		Gains This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	108	195	8	14	141	235	↘	-17.73%
48 North	46	86	2	2	45	81	↗	6.67%
Inland Empire	29	50	4	13	36	59	↘	-8.33%
South Central	21	35	1	2	19	32	↗	15.79%
Olympic Peninsula	17	25	3	3	16	23	↗	25.00%
Southwest	14	27	7	12	12	19	↗	75.00%
Cache-Cadia	18	24	0	0	12	18	↗	50.00%
Unaffiliated	4	4	0	0	7	8	↘	-42.86%
<b>TOTALS:</b>					<b>288</b>	<b>475</b>	↘	<b>-2.08%</b>

As of 5/17/2015

Membership purchases have declined this reporting period. I suspect that the newsletter may have triggered the flush of renewals last time.

I believe that as we close in on the campout - we may see another round of renewals for those that have not yet renewed this year. Southwest Chapter had the top percentage of gains this reporting period with Cachecadia coming in 2nd. Overall, we are down 2% in membership compared to last year this time. Family member numbers are now accurately reflected and are no longer estimates.

I hope to see a big renewal push right before the campout. Possibly put out another newsletter to bring numbers up? We are still showing healthy membership totals, despite the decline over last years' membership.

*Comments*

None



## Chapter Reports

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

The WSGA Southwest Chapter Facebook page likes were 47 as of 4/16/14. We now have over 100 Likes!

We also have more SW members now than I had at the beginning of my involvement with WSGA.

I attended and supported WSGA member bearsandme in Longview at her CITO on April 25. I continue to attend the GEOregon monthly Meet and Greets and at each one I talk about upcoming Washington events.

Recent events:

WSGA SW hosted an ivy pull CITO on April 26 at Whipple Creek Park in Ridgefield in conjunction with Park staff. Over 30 people showed up and many stayed afterward to cache in the park. You can see a photo of the CITO gang on top of the WSGA Southwest Chapter Facebook page.

Mtribe, a WSGA SW member, taught an Intro to Geocaching class by request of member cjburgon, program coordinator at the Stevenson Library on April 4, that WSGA Southwest and I co-hosted with him. The powerpoint presentation we used included the WSGA logo. There were 27 people there, both new and experienced geocachers.

I co-hosted the Portland, Oregon "East Powell Meet and Greet" on May 17 with some GEOregon folks. Over 30 people attended and it was an opportunity to talk with Portlanders about some really creative geocaches recently placed in the Vancouver, WA area.

Upcoming activity:

Wednesday, May 20, mtribe, Devil Hunter, and I will join WSGA member cjburgon of the Stevenson Library at an Outdoor Expo in Stevenson to talk to passers-by about geocaching. We will set up one or two practice caches just outside. That is why I will be missing the board meeting.

The next scheduled events I am hosting are:

"What's so special about Morton?" a geocaching meet and greet on May 30. Hoping to get some folks to go to a town they may not have visited yet to log the webcam cache and some caches placed at historical sites. WSGA members pwezr2 and lindlib, who live there, will be placing some new caches in honor of the event.

Finally scheduled a Wahkiakum County event with the cooperation of the Skamokawa Resort there. It will be an Intro to Geocaching event (class) on June 6. So, I will be able to check off the last County in my area for at-least-one-WSGA-sponsored-event-in-each-of-my-Counties! I have in mind three other unique types of events on the southern border here, one of which will, I hope, be a cooperative event with GEOregon Stay tuned!

### ***South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates***

At the end of March we held an CITO event at Sacajawea park helping our Friends of Sacajawea clean up before the visitors center opened the next day. In April we hosted an Ice cream social held by another member, the ice cream was donated, and about 25 people showed up to this mid-week event. Of interest was that I gave away a premium Groundspeak membership I won at the Summer Campout to a new caching family last fall. They never came to another event or anything since then. Then they showed up at the April ice cream social to report to me how much they loved their Premium Membership! They were addicted and had been planning trips with the membership. This was a great encouragement for my wife and I to see them so happy with it. So that little gift went a long ways, thanks for the summer camp!

At the end of April we helped with a CITO in Walla Walla, we had drawings for WSGA stuff, and there were about 30 attendees. It was nice to commingle with Walla Walla folks again as last year we did the same for Earth Week weekend.

On May second we hosted a 15th birthday event at a local favorite spot and around 30+ folks showed up. It was really nice and many laughs were shared. Here the largest coin ever was shown with a tracking number. It is basically a 3ft remake of the 2014 Tri-Cities Geocoin. Puzzle and all. You will see it if you attend the Tri-City coin event.

As far as the coin is concerned we have our final design, a video of it is done and awaiting approval for the web page. The pic of one side of it is out, the other side is top secret till event day. There are lots of things with the event this year so it is getting really fun now as we start meeting weekly for this event.

WSGA will help with a Friends of Sacajawea community event on June 6th along with Pasco and Richland Parks and Rec departments, I will make this an event also, so others can help. It will be a hide and seek geocaching game with young non-caching families. Then we will be helping with the World Wide Flash Mob in mid June.

We recently shared with our newest coin member West Richland, and their police force in prep for them to start seeing more Cachers this summer. We used the educational flyers Kristin sent me earlier this year. We have a very smart City Planner working with us there and I see no problems with this new city in helping support our little Mega event.

### ***Olympic Peninsula Chapter Report by Clayartist***

All has been quiet in the OP Chapter, due to my husband's health problems. I am hoping we'll have a feel for his schedule in about 3 weeks, so I can plan an event by July. I was hoping to email the Chapter members, to see if any would like to be my backup. This didn't get done yet. That is all I have to report for the OP Chapter this board meeting

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

I really do not know how or where I should begin. There has been very little activity within our chapter since our last board meeting. Some of my Chapter plans were abruptly changed in April.

We did have a CITO event on April 25th with a excellent turnout and they did a nice job cleaning up around a small park in East Wenatchee. More impressive was some in attendance traveled long distances to participate, Folks from Tri Cities, Ellensburg, Winthrop, and Okanogan were present.

As host for the CITO event I almost missed this event, As some of the board members know I had a fall due to ladder failure doing cache maintenance on one of my geo-caches. The result was a broken tibia plateau bone. So after 15 days in the hospital, and three trips to surgery I am on the mend and rehab home for several more weeks.

My goal is to get more members signed up for WSGA, and try to have some events take place in the Northern reaches of our Chapter.

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

We had an excellent time in April - May, 2015.

April 18, 2015 - The Ladies Day Event at Cabela's was a huge success! We talked to and gave out over 200 brochures to new and potential cachers! Spent the time to help them use a smartphone application (if that was all they had) and suggested real GPS units. Showed multiple caches and explained whys and wherefors of how to look for a cache!

April 25, 2015 - GC5NH44 CITO Invasive Plants: Removing Holly & Ivy: The weather didn't cooperate with us today. Many of the attendees were already soaking wet when they arrived at GZ! Everyone who attended proved what GREAT Pacific Northwest Cachers they are! Most of the ivy that was pulled from the trees was so old that it was 4 - 6 inches in diameter at the base and most of it was cut 6 feet up and beyond. 20+ brave people, bushwacked and fought their way in to save the trees. Everything that was done today is a HUGE help.

May 2, 2015 - GC5NR2G CITO Darrington CITO: Despite the remote location, Johnny Cache 79 pulled in a great group to pick up the trash in a local shooting location.

Things that we are preparing:

On May 21-22, 2015: Marshall Elementary School Overnight Retreat - Cama Beach State Park with Ranger Tina.

On June 19-21, 2015: GC5HH0X - Event Cache Mount Vernon Parks 2015 Geocoin Challenge with Mt. Vernon Parks & Recreation with Tom Wenzel of the VonDeets and MountVernonParks.

On June 20, 2015: Everett Cache Machine Lunch in cooperation with Rob and and The Puget Sound Chapter.

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

I just had my first event as chapter rep on 5-15-15, GC5QGQP – Cold Creek Park 5151515 Afternoon Tea event. Held 5-15-15 at 15:15:15 the event ran for 1 hour, 51 minutes. We had 19 folks at the event, and while that is in general a fairly small turnout, for a Friday afternoon I think that's actually pretty good. I even had one new cacher sign up for a WSGA membership during the event.

I have been working closely with the 48 North Chapter (Toni) to put together a lunch event during the Everett cache machine. Event name: Lunch in Snohomish. The cache machine routing currently hits Snohomish, just a little after noon. Initially we wanted to hold the event at Ferguson Park, unfortunately the shelter there was already rented for 6-20-15, so instead we we'll have it at, Hill Park. I have secured the shelter and hope to have the cache page up for review by the 18th. I have also spoken to TravisI about the event and he is quite excited about it as well, and will be including it in the routing.

The Summer Picnic – GC5R2Z6 is all set for Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> 2015 at Tolt MacDonald Park, in Carnation. We will be in the barn shelter. This is a really cool shelter that should hold all the event attendees just fine. There are hiking trails, camping and fishing and caching in the park. As always it'll be a potluck event I'll be cooking the burgers and hot dogs in the park. This year the event will run from 3PM – 6PM.

I'm also in progress of planning and putting together the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual WSGA – PS, Halloween event. Folks seemed to really enjoy it last year, and I've even had some ask if we would be doing it again this year and now I can say yes. We are going to be changing venues, to the VASA Hall in Preston, Wa. The venue change is mostly because cost and time. Last year I learned ½ day rental is simply not enough time to pull off an event like this. The VASA hall will allow us the day before the event for setup and day after for take down. I'd really like to get some other folks involved with the event, particularly to help out with the mini-Haunt. The event will be held on Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> 2015, the exact time the event will run is still TBD. I plan on having the cache page up in late July or early August.

*Meeting was adjourned by AndrewRJ at 7:40*