

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

May 22, 2014

Hydnsek called WSGA's 1st Business Meeting of the 2014 board term to order at 6:41 PM on May 22, 2014.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll), GrievousAngel, (Kathy McCormack), Verano (Debbie Patton)

Board Members absent: None

Proxies: None

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough, GeoCoin Manager), and jcar (Jim Bertrand, Campout Advisor).

Visitors: mtribe, apple

Hydnsek welcomed the board members and visitors in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Appointments

Report by Hydnek

When we held the annual WSGA Board election in March, the nominating committee was unable to find anyone willing to represent the Southwest and Olympic Peninsula chapters, so those two positions were vacant when the new Board took office on April 1. However, shortly afterward, we had two new members step forward, and after approval by the Board, I'm thrilled to welcome **ClayArtist (Patti Stoll) as Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep and Verano (Debbi Patton) as Southwest Chapter Rep**, giving us a complete 11-member WSGA Board of Directors for 2014. Thanks to both of you for volunteering to fill these positions and support your chapter areas. Debbi, in particular, may have fresh insights to offer, having recently served as secretary of the GEOregon club before moving to Washington State.

Comments

The board commented that they were pleased to have a full board.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 27, 2014 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

Comments

Hydnsek reminded AndrewRJ to upload the approved minutes to the website.

Membership Report

Report by Lizzy

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total Accounts	Total Members
Puget Sound	81	59	1	141	235
48 North	26	19		45	81
Inland Empire	13	17	6	36	59
South Central	10	9		19	32
Olympic Peninsula	11	5		16	23
Southwestern	7	5		12	19
Cache-Cadia	7	5		12	18
Unaffiliated	1	1	5	7	8
Totals as of 5/20/2014	156	120	12	288	475
Totals as of 3/23/2014	142	103	11	256	359
Net Gains	14	17	1	32	111

As of May 20, we have 288 Membership Accounts, which include 156 Individual, 120 Family and 12 Associate types. There are 475 people total included in these accounts.

32 Member Accounts were added since the last report which included 6 new (4 Individual, 2 Family) and 26 renewals. A total of 116 persons were added to the membership rolls in these 32 accounts.

Comments

Hydnsek provided some year-over-year perspective to the Membership numbers: In May 2013, we had 314 member accounts vs. 288 today. The biggest drop is in 48 North (from 59 to 45 accounts). Puget Sound is down by 10, but is still half our membership at 141 accounts. Olympic Peninsula has also shrunk a bit, but Inland Empire has grown (from 31 to 36 accounts), and the other chapters are holding steady.

Lizzy indicated that she would add historical comparison data to the July meeting report.

Mc3cats requested the ability to sign up for more than a one year membership. It was agreed that the board would look into the possibility as well as an auto renewal feature.

Financial Report

Report by Hippychick1620

Hippychick1620 reported that on March 1, 2014 the club had \$15,652.17

Income for March was \$873.06, consisting of:

- Memberships: \$269.50
- Coin Sales: \$129.50
- Fee refund: \$0.06
- Donation: \$18.00
- Campout: \$456.00

Expenses for March were \$946.47, consisting of:

- PayPal fees: \$32.87
- Order shipping: \$24.76
- USPS: \$34.20
- Office Supplies: \$21.14
- Small Grant Program: \$500.00
- Annual filing: \$10.00
- Pathtag reorder: \$323.50

This left a March 31, 2014 ending balance of \$15,578.76 and a monthly loss of \$73.41.

Income for April was \$475.00, consisting of:

- Memberships – \$187.50
- Coin sales – \$107.50
- Other merchandise sales – \$10.00
- Campout registration – \$170.00

Expenses for April were \$837.86, consisting of:

- PayPal fees – \$19.56
- Shipping fees – \$12.14
- USPS – \$111.80
- Office supplies – \$85.28
- Internet Fees – \$32.74
- Campout Pathtag Order – \$181.00
- Merchandise Order – \$395.34

This left an April 30, 2014 ending balance of \$15,215.90 and a monthly loss of \$362.86.

In April we ordered some merchandise as well as our campout pathtags, which puts us at a “loss” for the month. Without those orders we would have come out ahead for the month.

For May we seem to be running income ahead of expenses.

Comments

Hydnsek indicated that she and Hippychick1620 have discussed reporting all finances since the previous meeting to insure a more accurate reporting of our finances.

The board agreed that we would like to have a year-over-year and multi-year line items reported within the treasurer’s report. Hippychick1620 indicated that she would add additional comparison data to the July meeting report as well as the modified reporting time frame.

Those members who helped to achieve our financial shape were thanked.

Merchandise Report

Report by Hippychick1620

In April we ordered log books to sell on our WSGA website. We have sent the descriptions to Hydnsek to be posted on our website for sale, which should happen shortly. We have also sent the description for our new WSGA logo shirts to Hydnsek to go up on our site for pre-sales. We expect to place our shirt order around the end of the first week of June or shortly thereafter. Our next merchandise order (separate from the APE event) will take place this fall when we order our WSGA cachekinz.

Comments

Hydnsek indicated that the 2014 WSGA Campout pathtags are undergoing final design and will be ordered shortly.

2014 Summer Campout

Report by KidVegas19 for Sunshine Geo

Registration

- We have 19 RV spaces and the group tent area
- There are 23 paid reservations so far
 - 8 RV sites and 13 tents
 - 52 adult dinners and 7 kids

Path tags

- The path tag is in the proof stage.
- We are working out color and line thickness issues.

Activities

- SunshineGeo has started gathering the supplies for onsite activities.
- The ranger lead program has been scheduled and the expected topics discussed.
- Geo Puzzle Art – The Last three caches should be fixed and SunshineGeo expects them to be published any day now.
- Steamboat Rock Letterbox Hike – All 15 caches have been placed and beta tested. SunshineGeo is submitting the permit applications this week
- EarthCache Tour – Starting to look at how to present it.

Goody Bags

- Items are still being collected.

Prizes

- Have a list of about 50 places to call for donations but having trouble getting volunteer helpers with enough spare time to get very far. Hippychick1620 has received a donation from Cabela's.

Event

- Currently setting up an event to request Inland Empire members that are attending to help with onsite activities and others to help with donation requests.

Comments

Board members thanked the IE campout managers for their organization and outstanding preparations. HydNSEK said the new cache series was exciting and the first time we've had that for a campout.

Hippychick1620 indicated that the campout committee was currently working to solicit additional donations.

It was brought up that there was not an end of pre-registration date on the cache listing. HydNSEK indicated that she would contact Sunshine Geo to have that added.

State Parks GeoTour

Report by HydNSEK

The WA State Parks Centennial GeoTour launched a year ago on June 7, 2013, and has been a phenomenal success. As of March, more than 3,100 cachers had found at least one GeoTour cache, and over 600 had found five or more (actively working on the challenge). We've given out all 32 Gold coins (100 caches) and 151 of 180 Silver coins (50 caches), and nearly 100 folks have logged the 50-Cache Challenge cache. Four

GeoTour caches have won WSGA Cache of the Month honors, and several others have been nominated - a tribute to the quality of the locations and hides for this series.

Based on ongoing enthusiasm for the GeoTour, WSGA and the State Parks agreed to split the costs of renewing the GeoTour for a second year on geocaching.com. As you know, I negotiated a \$1500 renewal fee from Groundspeak (vs. the standard \$2500), to be split evenly between the two partners. WSGA's Board approved funding \$750 of the renewal cost at our March Board meeting, and the State Parks approved their share in April. The State Parks has signed the renewal of the GeoTour Agreement, and will be invoicing WSGA for our share of the payment soon.

The second year of the GeoTour will have the same caches and format as the first year, as it's an ongoing challenge. All 103 caches remain in place, although some have been adopted over to new owners. Mc2cats now owns the Ollalie cache (CO moved), and FenchurchE/NepoKama have adopted Belfair and Twanoh, as the original CO (7-C's) is now deployed in Guam with the U.S. Navy.

NepoKama is working with us to create online achievement badges that cachers can put in their profiles to indicate completion of the 50 and 100 cache levels. (Similar to the Earthcache Masters achievement levels.) These would be available to previous and future finishers.

And that's not all...Ranger Tina (my parks partner) and I are discussing minting a new coin for the second year of the GeoTour, which will be available to new finishers once the current Silver coins are gone (previous coin recipients will not be eligible for the new coin). The License Plate division has agreed to foot the cost from income from State Parks license plates, an amount that would allow us to mint around 250 new Silver coins - a larger number than the original version. (There will only be one version, Silver, for the 50-cache level, as that's the focus for the State Parks.) Because it's no longer the parks centennial year, and to make the coin distinct from the first-year coins (and because the funding is coming from another division), the coin will have a new design. NepoKama is working with the State Parks designer on it now; the key graphic elements will be the standard State Parks logo, the WSGA logo, and probably the State Parks license plate.

Ranger Tina and I are also discussing whether to mint a Bronze coin for sale (anyone who wants one), but that hasn't been determined yet, as there are State Park regulations around merchandise sales. I have an alternate proposal for a Bronze coin: WSGA could fund the minting of a bronze coin, if we are the ones selling it and retaining the income. That would reinforce awareness of our partnership with the parks on the GeoTour, and also provide the club with some recompense for all the volunteer hours our members have donated to support the State Parks GeoTour. The coin design would be identical to the new Silver, just in a different metal to separate it from the prize version. If the State Parks agrees with this scenario, what does the Board think?

I hope to have the coin details worked out in the next couple of weeks, along with the achievement badge, so that we can make a big announcement about the renewal of the

GeoTour and the new goodies around the first of June.

Comments

A significant discussion was held concerning the proposal to mint a coin to sell in conjunction with the State Parks GeoTour. A vote was taken to proceed pending State Parks approval and design and pricing approval by the board. The proposal passed with a vote of 10 aye and 1 nay. It was noted that the coin should not be bronze, as that metal was used for the GeoTour volunteer coins. NepoKama suggested copper or black nickel instead.

Lizzy asked for an update on lapsed members who currently own a State Park GeoTour cache. Hydnek said she had sent emails to the lapsed cache owners, and a couple had renewed but the rest had not. The board agreed that we should continue to encourage them to renew, but we couldn't force it, and we couldn't strip them of their cache ownership.

Verano asked for and received additional details concerning the Geotour program.

Ape Mega-Event

Report by Hydnek

I held a planning meeting with our two assistant directors, Hippyck1620 and AndrewRJ, plus Lizzy, on April 27. Highlights:

- Ape Swag Bag: We will have a new tote bag with shoulder straps, and will contain the event coin, event shirt, a WSGA safety whistle, a WSGA bottle holder, and a minipen. Swag Bag cost will be about the same as last year (\$18), and we will sell them for \$30 during June 1-15 preorders, and for \$35 in late July 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 a cutout of our iconic ape, similar to the former cachekinz, black on one side and white on the other, with a glow around the edges. Final design details are being done this week.
- Event shirt: Same design as last year, with the glow. Shirt colors will be royal blue for attendees, and red for volunteers.
- Parking: Groundspeak was unable to follow through on their idea to supply event buses to bring folks to the event. However, AndrewRJ and I are scouting a ski lot that's walking distance to the Hyak venue, and hope to nail that down soon. It's a huge lot and would handle all our overflow. We will also double the number of parking volunteers and revise how they are deployed.
- Assistant directors: AndrewRJ and Hippyck are splitting oversight of the event as follows. Hippyck – booth area (welcome, swag preorders, swag sales, refreshments). Andrew – parking, trail, tunnel.

- Crew chiefs: We have all our area managers in place, and we'll be holding a Crew Chiefs meeting in early June. Drum roll, please. Parking – Andrew R.J. Tunnel Monitors – FenchurchE. Welcome – Louie Bliss. Swag Preorders – Lizzy. Swag Sales – HippyChick1620. Refreshments – Peach&Pete. Lab caches – jcar.
- Welcome: Louie Bliss (Nicole) will be overseeing the welcome table (name tags, glow sticks, maps, questions), the TB Depot, the WSGA table (club info, GeoTour info), and the creatures (Apezilla, et al). She also has ideas for other things we might do, such as a social/relaxation area with tables and chairs, probably near Refreshments.
- 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 offering several of these temporary caches, which are currently only available to mega-events. Jcar and mc3cats are partnering to create them, in consultation with Groundspeak.
- Ancillary activities: GrnXnham will again lead a hike to GCD before the Ape event, leaving the trailhead at 6:30 am; we are promoting that on the event page. We're also considering offering a sponsored bike ride from Hyak to Rattlesnake, if we can find a leader.

Comments

HippyChick1620 indicated that FugeFinders (Lynette) will fill her role at the swag sales booth.

Mc3cats suggested that "5th Annual" be added to the event shirts. The board agreed that it would be added to the shirts.

The board expressed excitement at the Lab Caches planned for the event.

Park Liaison Report

Report by Louie Bliss

City of Bremerton contacted me concerning logging at Newberry Hill Heritage Park. I worked with Kitsap Peninsula liaison Cool Cow Cachers on identifying which caches were affected and had it resolved within 2 days. Luckily, only 4 caches affected. Much thanks to Cool Cow Cachers for contacting the cache owners and following up.

The City of Bellevue and I are partnering to host 2 Geocaching 101 classes. The first on Tuesday September 9th at 10am at Lewis Creek Park for seniors and the second for families on Saturday October 4 at 10am, also at Lewis Creek Park. They are interested in placing caches throughout Bellevue Parks and potential GeoTour in the fall as well. They are all very positive about geocaching, which is great considering the history with Mercer Slough.

Comments

Hydnsek indicated that she was very pleased to hear about partnering with Bellevue Parks as three years ago they were considering a ban on caches.

NepoKama indicated that he has been working with Mount Vernon Parks and the City of Buckley on geocoins and pathtags for upcoming geocaching events.

Chapter Reports

Puget Sound Chapter report by Mc3cats

We have not had any events since the 3/22/14 Meet in Greet in Lacy. However, our next event is coming up this weekend (5/25) and will be held in Auburn. The event is being put on by Terpnurse (Steven) but I will be there in a support role in an attempt to find folks to feel comfortable with running for the PS chapter next year. As non-club events go, I do have two back to back weekend events at the beginning of June. The Washington State Parks Foundation is holding a huge outdoor event on the capital grounds on June 14th. The WSGA has been asked to be at that event with a booth. I will be there along with GeoLMP (Jim) and BucketSt.James (Bekka). The weekend before, we have had a local city contact us about an event. City of DuPont has asked the WSGA to be at their "National Trails Day" event on June 7th near city hall. They are looking for us to put on geocaching classes to the masses. At this point I have one person signed up for the event, utox2rox (Roxanne). I am looking for one more person to chair this event.

As future, club events, I have some pretty busy months coming up. June will be pretty busy for me with a summer vacation planned and said events in the south sound. July is even busier with birthdays and anniversaries as well as a medical procedure I have planned. The annual picnic will be limited to the 4th of July weekend or August.

Comments

Hydnsek indicated that she has received requests to have more events in the Puget Sound Chapter Area.

48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel

We had a great outing to Guemes Island in April. The weather cooperated somewhat and we had a good turnout of cachers from Seattle to San Juan Island. I think everyone completed the Guemes Island blackout. We had another event this week—about 25 people turned out for a meet & greet at MOD Pizza. Besides WSGA events, we've had a number of meet & greets hosted by Johnny Cache.

We now have a chapter page on Facebook.

Comments

Hydnek indicated that six of the seven chapters now have Facebook pages, and that the main WSGA Facebook page, which just celebrated its 3rd birthday (created May 2011), has nearly 700 followers. She noted this is more than the club's membership, and the page services as a member and community resource and marketing tool.

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

On April 7, 2014 was the "The Cache-Cadians Makers Madness Event.

April 26, 2014 we held CITO Along the Loop. We chose to work between the George Sellar Bridge North to 19th street Loop Trail Parking Lot. This was a success. The local parks District and the City of East Wenatchee are taking steps to eliminate the homeless from areas along the Apple Loop Trail Historically there always have been many homeless camps South of the Bridge near where Fred Myers and the Old Top Foods Stores are located.

Recent construction of the Bridge access cleared out those sites and they, the homeless migrated further north. They encroached in area where more users use the trails and were causing health issues.

Those who turned out did a good job and picked up countless bags of trash and some syringes were located.

Also during our CITO event we had a photographer from the Foothills magazine tag along with us taking pictures. Amber Barber (Ambrosia) and I have been contacted by a reporter of Foothills magazine about geocaching for an upcoming article. Have no idea when it will be published.

A few from the area are preparing for the summer camp out at Sun Lakes State Park There should be plenty of new caches to be found in the Dryland Wheat Country of Heartline and Almira areas. There will be an additional 20 caches in place, and in queue to be reviewed by the volunteer reviewers. All in all 62 caches will be waiting to be found.

Word needs to be shared that the time of the Campout will also be during Wheat harvest. Local farmers will not be expecting for a lot of extra traffic. The County roads are narrow and the crops in many places are right up next to the gravel or pavement.

Coming up from the last week of June and into late July I have been contacted to do a presentation on Geocaching, using a GPS and finding and possible placement of a geocache for a group of middle school students at Soap Lake.

Comments

Hydnsek thanked Cache-Cadia for supporting the campout effort.

Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5

12th Annual Cache In Trash Out (GC5021X) was held on April 26th for Earth Day. Rich (The TC Life) helped set up this event to clean up DNR land northwest of Spokane. Great turn out with 13 attended logs.

You Are Cordially Invited... (GC4XHRC). JD (KidVegas19) and Lisa (Lookout Lisa) tied the knot and got themselves hitched on April 19th. A large portion of the guests attending the actual ceremony were geo-cachers and the reception was open to all as an actual event They had a great turn out with 40 attended logs posted.

Lots of non-chapter events coming up in our area:

2014 Ritzville Cache Cow (GC52AEE)
May 24th @ Ritzville Library

One Last BBQ Potluck (GC53RZ9)
June 1st @ Hordmann Pond/Kiwani's Park, Moscow

WWFM XI – Summer's Comin' – Spokane, WA (GC53T11)
June 7th @ Riverfront Park, Spokane

Lewiston ID WWFM XI Event (GC5583G)
June 7th @ Airport Park, Lewiston

A Dozen Hundredths (GC54WTA)
June 12th @ Ron's Drive-In, Spokane Valley

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

Over the last two months we have held three events one associated with a CITO, a Maker Madness event and a meet and greet. We have also met two times over the upcoming Tricitygeocoin.com event. Our coin sample should be posted now.

We do plan on having a WSGA booth for all to visit on the 28th of June and WSGA members are setting, selling what is brought to east side and signing up people for membership.

We are also hosting the CITO and a breakfast on the morning of 29th at Saturday's event location. This year we are hosting a meet and greet Friday night the 27th and will feature Porker Run sheets, Geocache 101 class and a other activities most of them hosted by WSGA members. Thanks for all you guys do to help with WSGA and geocaching moving along.

Comments

Hydnsek thanked Tumbleweedpirates for his work to ensure WSGA has a significant presence at the TriCities Geocoin Challenge again this year.

Southwest Chapter report by verano

I want to thank all of the board members for their enthusiastic support in helping me get started as the WSGA rep down here. The local cachers and current SW members have also been most welcoming and I look forward to working with them this year. I have already provided bearsandme with some WSGA swag for her events and she has been most gracious in mentioning WSGA to the attendees. She introduced me at her recent CITO event in Longview.

The first SW WSGA event with me as the rep will be WSGA Washougal Meet and Greet <http://coord.info/GC53CK0>. I met several of our members and other local SW Washington geocachers at my personal event in Ridgefield in April as well as at bearsandme's recent events. Several have logged will-attends for the Washougal event.

Since my area borders Oregon, I have asked GEOregon to announce upcoming SW Washington events at their monthly meetings and I will post our events on the GEOregon Facebook page. In addition, I am checking weekly for all SW Washington geocaching events and will post reminders for them on our WSGA SW Facebook page, as well as nearby Oregon events.

I am in the process of scheduling a Long Beach, WA Meet and Greet at the Ocean Park Timberland Library tentatively set for September 6.

Comments

Hydnsek commented that it was a great idea to cross-post to GEOregon as a way of collaborating and integrating with the local cachers.

Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by ClayArtist

Much of my time since being appointed at the last board meeting has been spent "getting up to speed" on all things Geocaching, the WSGA, and the different facets of the Chapter Rep job. After receiving the bin and some instruction from Idajo2, I began by getting the online assets of the OP Chapter in order. I felt it was important to make sure, if anyone reached out online, that they would hear back from someone. I discovered that somehow the email links on the GC.com page and the Facebook page were going to a gmail account that was no longer active, so I made sure those were changed and working.

In the process of shopping for a new GPS unit, I became acquainted with staff at our local REI. I told them about WSGA and they invited me to post notices in the store of local activities.

After weeks of waffling on dates and locations for my first event, I finally felt ready to commit this week. My first event will be in Port Hadlock on Saturday, June 14, at Ferino's Pizza, from 5 to 7 pm. They have great pizza and the location is central to people geocaching the day in the Port Townsend area. I will be doing a raffle of some swag and one geocoin, from the OP Chapter bin I inherited.

I just submitted it to geocaching.com (my first cache submission of any kind), so it isn't published yet, but should be soon. I may submit some notices through local newspapers, to get the word out, as well. I am also planning on hosting a picnic on July 12, at a park close to where I live, with a view of the Hood Canal Bridge (the "gateway" to the Olympic Peninsula). I will be submitting that in the next couple of days. In August, I want to have an event somewhere between Bremerton and Shelton and in September, one out at Ocean Shores, where we hope to be camping for a bit.

I am a bit of a slow starter, but usually put along pretty well once I'm up and going. I have all sorts of outreach ideas for networking in the local area. So, also on my to-do list, is making some business cards with my contact info, to hand out, as I go around and talk to people. My goal, during the first year, is to hopefully double the Chapter's membership.

There is only one other event going on in the OP Chapter in the near future. On June 28, there is the Caching Family Picnic event, in Sequim, hosted by Team Bad Wolf. I have been in contact with them, and will be attending. They are interested in learning more about the WSGA. I think one of the most compelling things to share with them is how we almost lost caches in State Parks, and how the WSGA saved them with the Parks Liaison Program.

Thank you all for putting your trust in me and all the support you've given me so far, in answering my questions!

Comments

Hydnsek again thanked ClayArtist for taking on this role.

NEW BUSINESS

GeoCoin Order Limits

Report by AndrewRJ

Currently the WSGA has a policy in place stating that members of the WSGA receive a discount on the WSGA Geocoin (up to 3).

Recently we have noticed two occurrences where a WSGA members have decided to purchase additional coins. In both cases the additional purchase has meant that they are buying more than the 3 coins at the member price. The website currently has no way to track this.

In theory any coin of one type over the third should be at the higher price. (This is our understanding of the wording on the website and the policy).

We currently have over 130 coins left out a minting of 250. While we eventually do sell out the coins, I don't feel that the extra \$2 per coin is worth trying to enforce this policy for the few coins this would apply to. And to be fair, it could only be enforced if the Secretary or Merchandise Manager noticed that there were multiple orders. This policy made a lot more sense when we were routinely selling out a minting in the first few months.

As such we are soliciting opinions on the following options:

1. Remove the restriction altogether.
2. Remove the restriction after the first few months.
3. Enforce policy more vigorously (possibly including tracking in store, or just as we observe multiple orders that qualify).

Comments

The board discussed options and the likelihood of the any change in policy affecting revenue and sales. After the discussion a motion was made to remove the limit on the number of coins that can be purchased by members at the discounted price. The motion passed with ten aye and one abstention.

Hydnsek again reminded the board that reports will be due the Monday before the next meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.