

## **Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting**

**October 2, 2014**

Hydnsek called WSGA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting of the 2014 board term to order at 6:41 PM on October 2, 2014.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), GrievousAngel, (Kathy McCormack), Verano (Debbie Patton) and Patti Stoll (ClayArtist)

Board Members absent: tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Proxies: AndrewRJ for tumbleweedpirates and Mc3cats for Mr. Gadget #2

Also in attendance: jcar (Jim Bertrand) and NepoKama (Mitch Eatough, GeoCoin Manager), LadyCosmic (Karin Haagar)

Visitors: SirKarp (Rob), Trevor and Kate (Trevor)

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Minutes from the July 17, 2014 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

*Comments*

None

#### **Financial Report**

*Report by HippyChick1620*

July 1, 2014 Starting balance: \$19,083.60

##### Income:

- Memberships: \$108.00
- Coin Sales: \$23.50
- Merch. Sales: \$44.00
- Campout: \$763.00
- APE Pre-Sales: \$5,095.00

- Petty cash: \$72
- (Total: \$6,105.50)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$229.61
- Order shipping: \$55.75
- Office Supplies: \$68.94
- Internet fees: \$16.43
- Campout refunds: \$110.00
- APE merchandise: \$6,814.14
- Sec of State filing: \$10.00
- Petty cash: \$72.00
- Merch order: \$109.07
- Chapter allocations: \$129.22
- (Total: \$7,615.16)

July 31, 2014 ending balance: \$17,573.94 (\$1,509.66 loss)

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August 1, 2014 Starting balance: \$17,573.94

Income:

- Memberships: \$299.00
- Coin Sales: \$51.50
- Merch. Sales: \$243.00
- APE weekend: \$8,983.06
- Fee refund: \$1.74
- (Total: \$9,578.30)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$113.29
- Order shipping: \$8.04
- USPS: \$9.80
- Internet fees: \$16.43
- Campout: \$288.33
- APE merchandise: \$3,876.19
- APE refunds: \$91.14
- APE supplies: \$731.45
- Chapter alloc: \$138.80
- (Total: \$5,273.47)

August 31, 2014 ending balance: \$21,878.77 (\$4,304.83 gain)

August 31, 2013 ending balance: \$18,327.02

August 31, 2011 ending balance: \$8,022.91

September figures will be up in the forum thread in the next few days. September month end is not done yet but I expect it to be a pretty flat month. It has been quite slow.

#### *Comments*

Hydnsek expressed her pleasure at the club's finances and recommended that we start using the excess money we have accumulated.

#### Chapter Allocations

The updated chapter allocation figures for 2014 have been posted in the forums for all to view. The Board decided to do a one-time extra allocation for 2014. Also, at the request of the board HippyChick1620 was asked to create a new allocation method for 2015 & beyond to give each chapter more funding. Her proposal is to increase the base \$100 to \$200 and increase individuals/associates to \$6 (from \$5) and families to \$9 (from \$7.50).

#### *Comments*

Hydnsek also indicated that the board approved the removal of the cap on the Puget Sound chapter allocation as it no longer as disproportionate as it once was and was less than \$1,000. HippyChick1620 and Jcar were thanked for their contributions to the revision.

A motion was made accept the new formula for chapter allocations, including removal of the Puget Sound allocation cap. The motion unanimously passed.

#### **Merchandise Report**

##### *Report by HippyChick1620*

We are slowly getting rid of old inventory. We are now down to one bin of WSGA gray shirts, some lanyards, pathtags, pens, flashlights & patches. We sold out of all of our coins at the Block Party. HippyChick1620 and Hydnsek will be coordinating shortly on getting new WSGA generic shirts and zip-up hoodies ordered, and HippyChick1620 will also be coordinating with NepoKama shortly to start the order for the Member Bonus WSGA CachekinZ.

#### *Comments*

The board brainstormed several ideas for new merchandise including regional cachekinZ, trackable nametags and banners. The ideas generated were coordinated by HippyChick1620.

AndrewRJ commented on the difficulties we have had with preorders and the necessity we have to justify some items.

## **2014 Summer Campout**

*Report by Sunshine Geo*

### 1. Attendance:

- 100 adults and 19 youth attended
- The group site was full and we used 14 of the remaining 15 rv sites
- We had 5 non-member reservations

### 2. Financial:

- Expenses
  - Sun Lakes State Park reservations \$1,745.02
  - Food & Supplies \$510.53
  - Total Expenses \$2,255.55
- Income
  - Camp sites \$1,600.00
  - Food & Supplies \$772.00
  - Return 5 rv sites \$142.50
  - Refund 1 group night \$69.51
  - Total Income \$2,584.01
- Overall profit \$328.46

### 3. Camp site difficulties:

- The sprinklers came on the group camp
- The picnic tables were not delivered
- The registration lady was unpleasant

Ranger response:

- He apologized and said that all 3 of his maintenance people were out that weekend (he was having emergency surgery.)
- He said he had no idea why Della would tell me that they didn't have any extra tables because they did.
- He has spoken with Della about her customer service skills.  
I did tell him that the rest of the staff was great! The bathrooms were perfect, the maintenance gal we had was fantastic in helping with the bee problem under the shelter. I also told him how much I liked dealing with him personally and told him that I was sure it wouldn't keep geo cachers from using the state parks.

Resolution:

- He refunded the Friday night group site fee. I will be mailing the check to Kristine by the end of the week

### 4. Sponsors:

- Sent thank you cards to all of our event donors.

### *Comments*

Hydolsek thanked the IE chapter for hosting in Cache-Cadia territory, and Mr. Gadget #2 for providing support from his chapter, as well as campout manager SunshineGeo (Angie) and her lieutenants, Scareway and Happyhunter12, and fellow chapter members, including Mr & Mrs Parts, Kidvegas19, Lookout Lisa, and Majeda, for showing everyone such a good time.

Lizzy and AndrewRJ also commented on how well run the event was.

### **Block Party (WSGA Booth)**

*Report by Hippycheck1620*

The WSGA booth at the Block Party was quite successful this year. Hippycheck1620 was at the booth at 8am to set up, and by 9am we already had people stopping by and it was a steady stream all day long. We sold \$836 worth of merchandise & \$223 in memberships, for a total of \$1059.00.

### *Comments*

Hydolsek thanked Hippycheck1620 and the WSGA members who volunteered to staff it. She also commented on that we sold a lot of memberships this year, more than any other event.

Hydolsek also thanked Groundspeak for their continued support as part of our International Geocaching Weekend agreement.

Lizzy discussed getting large vertical banners for the booth and other events. Lizzy and Hippycheck1620 were asked to develop preliminary ideas.

Several officers commented that the venue format for the booths was better this year and coins sold out quickly.

### **Ape Mega-Event**

*Report by Hydolsek*

Our 5th-annual Going APE mega-event on Aug. 17 was our largest and most-successful yet, with an estimated 1,500 attendees from around the globe.\* The event ran smoothly, without any major issues - we solved previous issues with parking, swag sales, tunnel incidents, etc. We received tons of compliments on the event and organization from our visitors, some even saying they thought it was better organized and more interesting than the Block Party. (Wow!) Way to go, team!

Event expenses were around \$11,500 (much of it for merchandise), but income was \$16,454, so we made a profit of nearly \$5,000, which combined with the \$1,069 from the Block Party (no expenses), means we made over \$6,000 for the weekend. For the past three years, the APE event has been our largest income generator (thanks largely to coins and shirts), another compelling reason to continue hosting this popular event in conjunction with the Groundspeak Block Party on International Geocaching Weekend.

Due to the event's growth, we increased our volunteer staff and moved to a more formal structure for event organization this year, with assistant directors and crew chiefs, and planning sessions beginning months beforehand. I was again the director, and my assistant directors, AndrewRJ and hippychick1620, did fantastic jobs overseeing their areas and handling many organizing details. Our crew chiefs (Lizzy, FugeFinders, Peach&Pete, FenchurchE, Louie Bliss, jcar, AndrewRJ) did amazing jobs planning and running their areas of the event (Parking, Welcome, Swag Presales, Swag Sales, Refreshments, Tunnel Monitors, Lab Caches). And most of them have already agreed to return next year - yay!

And, of course, none of this would have happened without our amazing volunteers - 67 cachers worked before, during, and after the event to make sure everything went smoothly. As in past years, every volunteer received a free event T-shirt (volunteer red vs. attendee blue), and 20 of them who went above-and-beyond are also receiving special volunteer versions of this year's Ape coin (crew chiefs, those who worked all day, etc.).

Unfortunately, there was a tragic event in the early morning that put a damper on the day. Before the event, GrnXnham host a hike to GCD, and a local cacher, Eric McDonald (ECM41), had a heart attack on the trail and, despite over an hour of CPR by fellow cachers, he died before paramedics could reach him. His family was very appreciative of the support they received from the geocaching community, and memorial notices were put on the Ape event page and WSGA Facebook page, as well as a permanent memorial on the GCD cache page.

For the past two years, the event managers have done a postmortem after the event to assess what worked and what glitches need fixing for the next event. Here are some takeaways for next year:

- We had six weeks of online swag preorders this year (mid-June to end of July), and that seemed to work better than an earlier two-week window. We sold more Ape Swag Bags beforehand, and lines at the event Sales table were much shorter and we didn't run out of coins early (although we still sold out of T-shirts - even after doubling our order!). Well done, Lizzy, FugeFinders (Lynette), and hippychick1620!
- The new line setup and clearly marked Cash vs. Credit staff at the Swag Sales table made that area go much more smoothly. Kudos to hippychick1620 and FugeFinders (Lynette).
- We finally seem to have a handle on parking, thanks to AndrewRJ. He got

permission to use the Snoqualmie Summit overflow ski lot (free!), which is a short walk from Hyak and plenty large enough to handle our overflow. The small Forest Service lot is no longer necessary, so next year, the plan is to use only the Hyak and Ski lots, which will also save us buying NWF passes (for the FS lot). The new vests we got for parking volunteers worked great for identifying them with attendees.

- Although the event starts at 10:00 am, many attendees arrive earlier to do the tunnel and caches. The parking crew started at 8:30 this year, which was a huge plus in managing traffic, and next year we may open the Welcome and Swag Preorders booths earlier. The only booth we need to hold till event start is Swag Sales, so it's a level buying field for all attendees.
- The event officially ends at 2:00 pm, but this year we kept the Refreshments and Sales booth open till 3:00 or so, since many folks are still returning from the tunnel at that point. This seemed to work well and was much appreciated by attendees.
- The six Lab Caches (Adventures) were a huge hit, especially Mr. Gadget #2's birdhouses. Jcar and mc3cats did an outstanding job of setting them up, and we should do them again next year (hopefully with Gene and his birdhouses as one station).
- Oversight on name tags this year - next year, we'll be sure everyone wears one.
- We set aside nine handicapped parking spots at Hyak, and eight were used, which is a good number for next year. (In previous years, we didn't designate spots beyond the four that Hyak has marked.)
- We had to change porta potty vendors this year, and Andrew found us a new supplier, and he has a lead on a closer and cheaper one for next year. The park's lone toilet beyond the tunnel was inadequate to the needs - long lines and it ran out of TP (we sent more out), so we'll be adding a fourth potty on the west side of the tunnel next year, and the park will help us with the logistics.
- We refined our refreshment supply so that we didn't have lots of apples and water left over; more granola bar flavors were appreciated. Bananas were a great addition (we ran out), and we'll have more next year. Great job, Peach&Pete!
- We had larger, more prominent signage at the tunnel entrances to warn non-participants of the tunnel traffic and monster, as well as proactive tunnel monitors talking to folks. Well done, FenchurchE and team!
- The Welcome table was a bit squished this year; last year's separate tables for welcome vs. club info vs. TB trades seemed to work better, so we'll be returning to that model next year, possibly with the three areas more physically separated in the venue. Thanks to Louie Bliss and team for ably handling this area and making our guests feel welcome.
- We need to acquire sandbags to hold down canopies if the wind picks up - a problem this year.

This was my fifth (and final) year as director, and I'm ready to pass the baton to my successor. As this is WSGA's marquee event, with attention from Groundspeak and the

international caching community, it seems fitting that the Ape Director become an appointed position, approved by the Board. Going into this event, AndrewRJ, hippychick1620, and I discussed that one of them would become the new director.

After our postmortem discussion (and with their approval), I am proposing that AndrewRJ become the new Ape Event Director. Hippychick1620 will again be assistant director, and as mentioned, most of the crew chiefs and many volunteers plan to return next year - so the event is in great hands.

\*Attendance comparison: 2013 - 1,350; 2012 - 1,100; 2011 - 720; 2010 - 550. (Per Groundspeak convention, attendance estimates are x2 the Attended logs, rounded.)

### *Comments*

Many members in attendance commented that it appeared to be very well run and passed along comments from people attending the event.

Hydnsek put forth a motion that the position of APE Director becomes an appointed position with AndrewRJ becoming the new APE Director.

The motion passed with 10 Aye votes and one abstention from AndrewRJ due to conflict of interest.

Verano asked a few questions concerning appointed positions and if they are discussed in the bylaws. Hydnsek responded to the questions and indicated that the bylaws allow for appointed positions but do not expressly define them.

## **State Parks GeoTour**

### *Report by Hydnsek*

The second summer of the Washington State Parks GeoTour has continued to draw a lot of geocachers - and we still haven't run out of the original Silver coins (50 caches), defying the pessimists. As of Sept. 6, we had 163 Silver finishers, with 17 coins still available (180 total).

AND...we are expecting a new set of achievement coins from the mint any day now. Thanks to the GeoTour's success, the State Parks funded the minting of 250 more coins with a slightly revised design. Originally they planned to make them all Silver. That seemed like a lot to me, since we still haven't run out of the original ones, so I suggested they make 50 of them Gold, so we can again reward those who find 100 State Park GeoTour caches (recall, we awarded the last of the original 32 Gold coins in November 2013). The Parks agreed, so we will have 200 Silver and 50 Gold coins to award GeoTour finishers. The first recipients of the new Gold coin will be Peach&Pete, who are also the 8<sup>th</sup> cachers to be Super-Gold finishers (all 103 caches).



If you haven't looked at the GeoTour stats lately, nearly 500 geocachers have found 10 or more GeoTour caches, suggesting they are actively working on it (and with only 163 official Silver finishers so far, that means there are a lot of cachers still plugging away). All 103 GeoTour caches have at least three Favorite points, with Fort Worden being the consistent leader (115 FPs), followed closely by Rosario Beach - Deception Pass.

The next phase of our State Parks partnership, the Compliance Project, was supposed to start in September and be completed this fall, but it continues to be delayed on the parks side. My partner, Ranger Tina Dinzi-Pederson, sent a memo to her superiors a few days ago detailing what needed to happen on their end for this project to start. Until they get their end organized, we continue to be in waiting mode.

The Compliance Project is where we bring all non-permitted caches in the State Parks into compliance with the Geocaching Directive. Most of these are caches that existed before the Directive was put into place, and their owners never got them permitted. I did a survey 18 months ago and compiled a list - there were nearly 200 noncompliant caches at that time! Once the state parks is ready to proceed, we will need to update our list (there have been quite a few changes) and then begin working with COs to permit, adopt out, or archive their caches. I have a spreadsheet of noncompliant caches (needs updating) and form emails to send to COs once the project begins.

Note: If the Compliance project doesn't proceed in the next few months, I will be passing the baton to our Parks Liaison Manager, as I'll be retiring from the Board and club project management (including being State Parks liaison).

### *Comments*

Hydnsek indicated that Ranger Tina is still trying to get movement from upper management for the Compliance project.

## **Park Liaison Report**

### *Report by Louie Bliss*

Frisbee'r and ohjoy! have decided to archive the series of 34 caches in Willapa Hills Trail in Pacifica and Louis counties. They have done significant work with the Rainbow Falls park ranger and there are two events on Saturday and Sunday to mark the occasion. We will be sad to see the caches go as they were enjoyed by everyone.

Peach&Pete have taught two successful geocaching 101 classes and have a third on October 18th. The classes were conducted in the city of Auburn Parks where 6 people in April attended and 7 people in June. The WSGA grant money with Auburn's matching funds were for purchasing containers and swag items for placing a series of geocaches and some funds were reserved later for a geo-tour. There is a discussion of a geo-coin for Spring of 2015.

I have two geocaching 101 classes with the city of Bellevue TRACKS Program. One was held on September 9th where there were 6 seniors and the next class is this coming Saturday with 7 families and 20 people total. We will also have another class in May 2015.

*Comments*

NepoKama commented that the Mount Vernon Event went well and stated that he knew that the City of Buckley has the coins he helped to design but is unaware of how the event went. Hydnek indicated that Louie Bliss should follow up and get a brief report from the City of Buckley.

**Membership Report**

*Report by Lizzy*

Lizzy added breakdowns for each chapter and included the trends so that chapter reps can see how their membership is growing and how their numbers compare to last year's. As of September 30th, we have 335 Accounts, which include 187 Individual, 135 Family and 13 Associate Accounts. There are 560 people total membership. There were 26 accounts added since the July report, which include 17 new (1 associate / 8 individual / 8 family) and 9 renewals (6 individual / 3 families). A total of 49 persons were added to the membership rolls within these 26 accounts

**Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns as of 9/30/2014**

Chapters	Current Accounts			Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Associate	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	98	67	1	166	280
48 North	28	20	0	48	85
Inland Empire	14	18	5	37	68
South Central	13	12	0	25	43
Olympic Peninsula	15	6	0	21	29
Southwest	8	7	0	15	26
Cache-Cadia	11	5	0	16	22
Unaffiliated	0	0	7	7	7
<b>ALL CHAPTER TOTALS</b>	187	135	13	335	560
<b>LAST REPORTED</b>	173	124	12	309	511
<b>Net Gains</b>	14	11	1	26	49

Chapters	Totals at 7/13/2014		Added This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	150	249	16	31	?	230	↗	21.74%
48 North	46	83	2	2	?	88	↘	-3.41%
Inland Empire	36	67	1	1	?	52	↗	30.77%
South Central	24	39	1	4	?	31	↗	38.71%
Olympic Peninsula	19	26	2	3	?	32	↘	-9.38%
Southwest	13	20	2	6	?	26	=	0.00%
Cache-Cadia	12	18	4	4	?	15	↗	46.67%
Unaffiliated	9	9	-2	-2	?	15	↘	-53.33%
<b>TOTALS:</b>					?	<b>489</b>	↗	<b>14.52%</b>

Comparing our membership to last year, our member totals are up about 14.52%. 560 members this year compared to 489 at this time last year. This represents a gain of 14.52% over last year. Puget Sound Chapter had the biggest gains since the July report. Comparing this year's membership to last year's, it looks like the Cache-cadia Chapter had the biggest gains over last year. A 46.67% increase!

#### *Comments*

The board all expressed their pleasure that the membership numbers are up and a brief discussion was held to discuss what we have all been doing to promote the WSGA and memberships.

Martine 5 indicated that his chapter (Inland Empire) has member only raffles.

### **Chapter Reports**

#### *Southwest Chapter report by verano*

16 people attended the WSGA Ocean Park Meet and Greet September 6. This was held the same day as the Classic Car Rod Run on Long Beach, so some folks in the area attending that event also attended ours. Interestingly, with only those few attendees, we had geocachers from Michigan and Arizona as well as Oregon and Washington. The next WSGA-SW-sponsored event will be November 1 at Andrew's Pizza in Stevenson. The WSGA-SW "Get ready for winter" event will be held at Papa Pete's Pizza in Longview on December 6 in the afternoon. Bearsandme has offered to host a geocaching gift exchange at the event. This is also the day of the Longview holiday tree lighting, so perhaps some attendees will attend both. By early December I will have hosted events in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, and Pacific Counties. I will plan an event in

Lewis County in the spring. Wahkiakum County is a venue challenge, though I may try for an outdoor event next year, which would complete my first round of holding events in all of the counties I represent. However, I will still plan additional events closer to home in the meantime.

I will be attending the Earthcache Mega Event in Duncan, BC this month and will try to gather attendees from Washington informally, perhaps during the lunch break. I will bring a sign and will scope out the situation on arrival.

I continue to announce nearby Oregon and Washington events on the WSGA Southwest and Portland Geocaching facebook pages.

The three Washington State Park geotour geocaches I adopted a while back continue to have positive logs and much activity. (Battle Ground Lake - GC4B1J6, Spring Creek Hatchery - GC4B1JW, and Beacon Rock - GC4B1JH).

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

We had over 50 attendees for our July monthly meeting because of the Geo 101 classes we held in June. Then in Aug our Walla Walla neighbors held a nice Monday night gathering. We also hosted two CITO's in Richland in August each with over 20 attendees. In September we hosted a hotdog feed and gathering on a really nice day and had a good turnout.

Currently we are setting up for an hour presentation for some 4H kids in Oct, setting up caches, a dinner place and time for our Christmas meeting and helping with planning for what may be a different type of Geo Coin event next summer. We will have a Halloween themed meeting for October, also.

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

None Presented

#### *48 North Chapter report by GrievousAngel*

48 North is a pretty social place--there have been numerous events recently, including a coin challenge in Mukilteo, a dinner meet & greet in Everett, a hike near Skykomish (technically in Puget Sound /territory, I guess), a tailgate party in Ferndale, an ice cream social near the Everett Mall, and even travisl's cache machine dinner last weekend--Point Roberts is in 48 North.

Upcoming events include a CITO in Larrabee State Park, Johnny's Blazing Beach Barbecue in Mukilteo, a breakfast event at the Skagit airport, a pizza event in Mill Creek and, of course, Half-Canadian's Halloween extravaganza. We will also be (wo)manning a table at Cabela's Ladies' Day Out on the first weekend in October. The chapter Christmas party will be in Marysville on December 12.

#### *Puget Sound Chapter report by Mc3cats*

August was an insanely busy month for the PS chapter, We had events every other weekend beginning with the first weekend of August. On August 2nd we had our Silver Bullets event which was an event to help Geocaching HQ roll out the Airstream travel bugs. We had a fantastic turnout with quite a few HQ folks in attendance. The next event was the APE event which the chapter assisted in putting on with a number of our chapter faithful volunteering including myself. On August 31st, we had our annual summer picnic during Labor Day Weekend. While we didn't have a huge turnout as in past years due in part to it being a three day weekend, we still had a good number of folks turn out. SirKarp and NW Stinkerbella assisted with this event which was greatly appreciated. Speaking of SirKarp and NW Stinkerbella, they put on an event in Olympia at Lions Park on Sunday September 7th. This was a brunch event which gathered a nice crowd at a wonderful local park down there. They did a nice job putting on the event which I am thinking will be a great spot for future events.

As future events go, SirKarp and NW Stinkerbella are putting on our next event which is a new one for the PS Chapter, a Halloween event dubbed "Nightmare at Kennydale" which is at the same venue we have held our annual holiday party at. This time, we will have a Halloween themed pot luck with prizes for best costumes. This event will be on Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

That's all I have for the chapter right now. We had a very busy month of August and now we get a little breather until November!

#### *Olympic Peninsula Chapter Report by ClayArtist*

We've had a few things going on here, in the Olympic Peninsula Chapter, since the last board meeting. I was able to meet many of the local Kitsap geocachers at a personal event I threw on August 1st. There were 65 people at that event! I don't even start to think it's my magnetic personality that pulled so many in. I'm pretty sure it had a lot to do with goblindust being involved and also the 7 Souvenirs of August challenge. This was the only event that took place on August 1st within a couple hundred miles.

Some of the attendees were WSGA members, who I had already met at my WSGA events, while many were not and some were ex-members. It was a very interesting learning experience for me.

I went to the Block party early enough to make the group photo and do some of the local geocaches. I then reported for my two hour stint at the manning the WSGA booth, which turned out to be pretty easy, thanks to Kristine. She had been at it all day, by that time, but remained energetic and upbeat.

On Labor Day Weekend, we took our RV for its first campout at Twanoh State Park, at the south end of Hood Canal. I had planned this in conjunction with a WSGA picnic event on Saturday. The day before was beautiful weather, but we woke up to heavy rain, which became heavier at picnic time. The large shelters were pay-to-use, so the only shelter available to use was a mere 8X10. Although we were able to cook and have food out of the rain, people could only take turns being under the shelter and everyone got pretty soaked. Amazingly, 32 geocachers showed up to give me their support and get wet alongside of me. What a great group. There were a few that used this event as their last requirement to get their 7 Souvenirs of August, since it was on August 30th. In particular, I had one man who stopped in, who was on his way back to Japan, where he lives and works. He was in the Puget Sound area, visiting his son, and couldn't stay long, as he had to catch his flight.

On September 21st, we hosted another picnic, while were staying at Ocean City State Park for the week (near Ocean Shores). My choice of day wasn't the best, as it ended up conflicting with the Seahawks vs. Broncos game. This impacted the turnout quite a bit, but four people still attended and they were all local, which was great, in and of itself. We had a good time and I may have some candidates for "Lieutenants" in the area, to help plan another event next year.

I am currently in the planning stage, trying to decide when and where to do events over the next three months. I am toying with the idea of a Halloween costume party and another one closer to the winter holidays. These will most likely be in Kitsap County somewhere, close to me, especially as road conditions get more unreliable.

During September, discussion came up about the 2015 WSGA Campout. Since it will be on this side of the Cascades, I volunteered to go scout out three possible State Park locations, which I did. The parks are Belfair, Manchester and Dosewallips. They each have their pros and cons. I took lots of pictures and notes and started the report on them before we left for the Ocean. I will have the report on those three campgrounds finalized by Monday night and sent out to everyone to read, since it's an agenda item for discussion at the board meeting.

*Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5*

**Past Events:**

2014 WSGA Summer Campout - GC4YGNT July 25 - 51 attended logs

PADDLE AND CACHE - GC56A5T August 2 - 19 attended logs

Silver Bullet Launch - GC57T8B August 9 - 69 attended logs

### **Upcoming Events:**

CORNy aMAZEing event #3 - GC4PZEH October 10

### **Numerous Upcoming Local Events:**

Cheney Cache Machine Breakfast - GC5BXNK October 4

Bill & Bill's EarthCache Day hike by 0068 & Airrooster | GC5CZ8X | October 12

Vampire Orienteering with EWOC by TheSaint | GC5AY5Q | October 25

Pumpkin Carving Geo-Party #2 by Poke'Frog | GC5DQP5 | October 26

Halloween Bash by TheGreatOz | GC5BTQ8 October 31

### *Comments*

The Chapter Reports were accepted on mass.

AndrewRJ thanked everyone for sending in chapter reports prior to the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2015 Geocoins**

*Report by NepoKama*

We are in the initial design phase for the 2015 club coin. I've started a thread in the Geocoin forum with a few ideas. Please reply there with your thoughts. Our goal is to start production by mid-December. If we have a final design selected and approved prior to Thanksgiving we will hit that easily.

Current possible designs include the state bird/insect, the state seal/flag, or a coin based on the 2002 Washington stamp. I'd love to have more suggestions, specifically for iconic images/themes from the dry side of the state.

Costs for the coin are likely to be on par with other coins we've done recently. If the quote matches the State Parks coin remind we'll probably be right around \$1900 for 250 pieces (or about \$7.60 per coin).

We could optionally add a proxy tag with whatever coin we do – costs for that are likely to be around an additional \$1.60 per for 250 coins, giving us a cost of about \$9.25 per coin/proxy set.

### *Comments*

The board discussed several options based on ideas generated in the forums, including:

- Bird/insect
- Postage stamp
- Puzzle coin that would fit together, possibly one per chapter
- Waterfalls from each chapter

Total number of coins to mint (likely 300) and the logistics behind multi part coins were discussed. It was agreed to continue the discussion in the forum thread.

## **2014 Member Bonus**

### *Report by Hydnek*

Every fall since 2010, we've surprised our members with a Member Bonus - free swag to thank them for supporting WSGA and geocaching in Washington. Last year, it was the Seattle pathtag, with a design that matched our 2014 Washington coin; this pathtag is also now our new- member gift.

At the March Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved a WSGA cachekinz as the 2014 Member Bonus (see March meeting minutes). There's an existing thread in the WSGA Merchandise forum with the proposed design and rough numbers on quantity and pricing. The tentatively approved quantity was 850, meaning we would have some to sell (and use as swag) after the Member Bonuses go out (1 for Individual/Associate accounts, 2 for Family accounts).

So, it's time to confirm the pricing and quantity and get 'em ordered, as we normally send out the member gifts in the fall. Using Nepokama's previous figures, the cost should be no more than \$3,100 for 850 cachekinz. We can well afford this with our current treasury, so we should be good to go once we get final specs.

### *Comments*

NepoKama provided updated pricing information and Lizzy provided updates membership numbers. After a discussion it was confirmed without a vote to order 850 cachekinz as planned.

## **2015 Summer Campout**

### *Report by Hydnek*



It's time to begin planning our 2015 WSGA Summer Campout (12th-annual), as the fall is when we normally appoint the host chapter and campout manager and select the location, so we can make reservations ASAP when they open. Our campouts have been held in a variety of campgrounds - state parks, private, commercial - although we are currently focusing on WA state parks thanks to our great relationship with them.

LadyCosmic (Karin Haager) has offered to be the 2015 Campout Manager, and has been ramping up on what's involved. If there are no objections, we will vote to appoint her to the role at the Board meeting. ClayArtist has agreed to be her wingman if the campout is in Olympic Peninsula chapter area. This gives us two great folks to drive the 2015 campout!

The Campout is tentatively July 24-26, 2015, per previous Board decisions to hold it the last weekend of July each year. Some folks have questioned the date, so here's an overview of the rationale.

- We want the same weekend each year, so it's easy for us to plan around and for folks to remember and calendar. Many annual events are on established weekends.
- June is out: The first two weekends conflict with schools, graduations, and weather. The last two weekends have standing geocaching events - Cache Machine and TriCities Geocoin Challenge.
- August is out: It's too close to our Ape mega-event; many campgrounds have standing reservations in early August; Seafair is the first weekend; historically Shop99er had a big event 1st or 2nd weekend (one reason we moved the campout to July); the third weekend is Block Party / APE; the last weekend is back-to-school.
- That leaves July. First weekend is entangled with 4th of July activities. The other three weekends are our main options. We could move the campout earlier in July, but that's realistically our only wiggle room. Yes, it's hot in eastern WA in the summer, but heat hasn't been a significant issue at previous campouts.

Location for 2015 is Western WA, either in Puget Sound or Olympic Peninsula chapter area. (We rotate between east/west and among chapters.)

Puget Sound: Not looking good so far. LadyCosmic said: "I had John (CaptCosmic) do some research on State Park campgrounds. From what he could tell there are not very many State Parks in the Puget Sound chapter that allow camping or have a group campsite large enough to accommodate our group. So we have expanded our search to include the west side of Puget Sound which would be Olympic Peninsula Chapter."

Millersylvania was our first thought, but per AndrewRJ: "the group site only holds 20 to 40 people and is tent only. Also the Group site is up front, so all other traffic drives by. Which is too bad, as it is an extremely nice park otherwise."

Olympic Peninsula: We are focusing on the Kitsap and Hood Canal areas. ClayArtist did an overview of our options earlier in this thread. She narrowed it down to three parks - Manchester, Dosewallips, Belfair. I emailed everyone her detailed report as a PDF (it was too large to attach in the forum thread). We also suggested Fort Flagler, and ClayArtist did a last-minute recon trip there and ranked it high on the list, sending a report to everyone (also posted in the forum thread). She feels our choice is between Fort Flagler and Belfair.

If we agree the two finalists are Fort Flagler and Belfair, LadyCosmic and/or jcar should conduct site visits (with ClayArtist) to evaluate them and talk to the park managers, so they can make a final recommendation. That needs to happen ASAP this month, esp. if we want to make reservations when they open in late October (to ensure we get our weekend and locations). This means they'd need to organize visits quickly, update us in the forum thread (including pricing and negotiations with park managers), and then I'd schedule a Board vote.

### *Comments*

A motion was made to appoint LadyCosmic as the 2015 Campout Manager. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

The date was approved as the weekend of July 24-26.

A lengthy discussion was held over the venue for the campout. Based on the initial scouting performed by ClayArtist, the locations of Manchester, Belfair and Fort Flagler were strong possibilities. Each area had significant strengths and minuses. It was agreed that the campout committee would schedule time to visit the sites and provide a final recommendation.

## **Small Grant Program**

### *Report by Hydnek*

The WSGA Small Grant Program was created in Fall 2013 to provide annual grant funding to support geocaching-related projects in Washington State. Small Grants are available to individuals, groups, park systems, and nonprofit organizations working on geocaching-related activities that will positively impact the Washington geocaching community.

Our first grant period was January-March 2014, and we received two great proposals from park systems: Auburn (supported by Peach&Pete) and Mount Vernon (supported by VonDeets). Each received \$250, splitting the pot of \$500 we had to award. They will be providing us with reports on their funded activities this fall, so that we can assess the success of the first year of our Small Grants program.

The second Small Grant application period will begin in January, and based on our experience in the first round, the Small Grant committee (primarily btrueblood and jcar) recommended four amendments to our Small Grant Proposal. These were proposed in March in the BoD forum thread and are summarized below for your review. The revised Small Grant Proposal with the changes incorporated is posted in the forum thread so you can see how the updated Proposal would read.

- Increase the funding pool for the grants. This was the top recommendation from Ben and the committee, and was supported by Mike in our July Board meeting. WSGA has plenty of money, and we can afford to ramp up our community support of geocaching activities. Last year's pool was \$500, as we were testing the waters. My suggestion, as shown in the revised document, is that we raise the pool to \$2,000, with the maximum grant request per applicant set at \$1,000. Thoughts? Note that we control this grant, so we are not locked into any amount and can change it year-to-year based on finances, as jcar noted in his forum comments.
- Clarify that parks are eligible for grants (esp. since our first awards went to park systems). We were on the fence about at first, but then agreed parks are likely to be major players and we should include them.
- State those funds may not be used for geocoins, pathtags, or other prizes. The grants are intended for activities and educational programs, not swag. Everyone agreed with this when it came up, and in fact, Mount Vernon was asked to amend their proposal to exclude geocoins as a funding request.
- Adjust the grant timeline and provide more time for application review. Accordingly, the new application period is Jan. 1-31 and the evaluation period is Feb. 1 - March 15.

### *Comments*

A motion was made to approve the amendments to the small grant program so we can finalize the Small Grant document and begin advertising the next round of grants (which includes providing the grant document to interested parties).

The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

By approval of the Board of Directors AndrewRJ was appointed as the Small Grand Program Manager for the upcoming program period.

### **City of Bainbridge**

#### *Report by Hydnek*

For the second year in a row, the City of Bainbridge Island has solicited project proposals to support tourism in their area, with a pool of \$125,000 available to support selected projects. Groundspeak approached us last year to work on a proposal together,

but they started too late.

MissJenn contacted us again this year in early September, in hopes WSGA might submit a proposal for a GeoTour on Bainbridge. Indeed, this sounds like a great idea, so I asked our Park Liaison Manager, Louie Bliss, if she could tackle it, as these projects have fallen into that area in the past (in future, they'd go to the Outreach Coordinator). She had to pass, but AndrewRJ reviewed the application and requirements, had some great ideas, and offered to spearhead it, with support from the other officers. Then life happened, and we were unable to pull together a proposal in time for the Oct. 1 deadline.

So, this is mainly for Board awareness, in hopes that WSGA will choose to pursue it next year and have it on the radar for September timeframe. Third time's the charm? I've posted a thread in the BoD forum with this info and a copy of this year's Bainbridge RFP.

#### *Comments*

The Board recommends that we begin drafting a proposal in September of next year.

### **Unlicensed Use of Ape Image by Oakcoins**

#### *Report by Hydnek*

At the Block Party in August, the WSGA discovered that Oakcoins was selling a large geocoin using our Ape image – the one WSGA uses on our Ape coins, shirts, souvenirs, etc. This specific image is the property of WSGA – we commissioned its creation in 2010 and own all rights (yes, there's a paper trail and we paid the artist). For another party to use our image, especially for commercial gain, they need to get our permission and a license for its use (which could be free or a fee). Oakcoins did not; they just appropriated the image from client artwork we previously provided for our coins.

Actions so far: Hydnek has spoken with Bryan Roth at Groundspeak (their chief legal counsel), who agreed this is our image, with no attachment to previous Ape imagery. I've met with Avroair (Mark Clemens), who has dealt with similar issues related to his coin designs. And I have a lawyer lined up – Lightning Jeff (Jeff Ganson), a geocacher who has handled some IP (intellectual property) issues and do any work for us pro bono. Bryan, Mark, and Jeff, and the other officers, all agree with me that we should address this issue with Oakcoins.

Next steps: Hydnek will contact Hans Nielsen, Oakcoins owner, about the matter. Mark and I feel he probably isn't aware of what his manager (Michael) is doing, and indeed, Michael may not be aware this is a copyrighted image (although he did take it from our artwork and should have asked). Depending on their response, we have various options:

- We could send a cease-and-desist letter demanding they stop selling the coin.

And/or:

- We could request all or a percentage of the profit they've made from coin sales. (For example, \$1 per coin.)
- We could request they give us all remaining supply of the coin (which we could then sell and profit 100%, as we didn't pay for the minting).
- We could negotiate a license agreement that allows them to continue selling the coin, with a percentage to us per coin (previous and future sales).

Hydnsek debriefed the other officers a few weeks ago on this issue and potential next steps, but wanted to bring it before the full Board for awareness. There's no Board action needed at this time, but Hydnsek will keep everyone updated on developments.

#### *Comments*

A lengthy discussion was held to discuss this issue. AndrewRJ had performed an analysis of the WSGA Ape image in relation to the above discussed coin and in relation to several other coins produced over the years to attempt to determine any similarities or differences in the base image. Based on his analysis the APE coin minted by Oakcoins is the only product to have used the WSGA copyrighted image.

The board as a whole agreed to have Hydnsek as President of the WSGA proceed as planned in this matter.

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The meeting was adjourned by Hydnsek at 8:56 PM.