

WSGA Special Board Meeting

October 28, 2010 – Online Chat

Call to order @ 7:05 p.m.

In attendance: Abby Wolfe, Elaine Edwards, Jim Bertrand, Caroline Stuckey, Margaret Dunn, Alan Funk, Amber Barber, Debbie Combs, Craig Brown

Absent: Russ Wilson, Lee Campbell

Welcome visitors: Chris Brue, David Woodford

Greetings to Officers and Guests by President

OLD BUSINESS

- **Minutes** to BOD Meetings from April, June, and September submitted via email to all BOD.
 - Review and discussion followed of amended minutes.
 - Motion submitted by Alan to approve amended minutes as amended. Seconded by Craig and approved by the BOD. None opposed.

- **Treasurer's Report** – Jim

3rd quarter summary as posted in the WSGA BOD forums:

Third Quarter 2010

GeoWoodstock Activities and the campout were our primary sources of expenses and proceeds during the early part of the period, the later half has been taken up with coin and cachekinz expenses which we are just starting to see the sales from. Current inventory includes (on hand or on order) over 700 Silver Ape Coins, over 800 Cachekinz, several dozen WSGA and Gold Ape coins. We currently have \$4,067.51 combined in PayPal and checking. 2,000.00 is set aside for chapter allocations. Part of the rest is to reserve the 2011 Campout site.

Major Expenses –

\$12,684.00 - Coins/Cachekinz (Repay Avroair for initial Gold, Reorder Gold Volunteers, Silver & Cachekinz)
\$524.00 - Pathtags
\$603.09 - Envelopes/Postage for Coins (Some of this postage & envelopes we still have on hand.)
\$111.69 - Brochures (Geocaching explanation) Sample from Groundspeak First used at Bothell Riverfest.)
\$1,253.62 - Misc GW/APE Expenses (Permits, refreshments, supplies, Ape rentals, etc.)
\$2,798.18 - GW T-shirts (Volunteer and sold, includes postage to mail the shirts.)
\$1,460.87 - Campout (Other campout expenditures incurred in prior quarters.)

Proceeds –

\$11,069.00 - GW/Ape Deposit (includes APE coins, WSGA coins, Cachekinz, late Ape registrations)
\$648.99 - Dues (Online, GW8, Events)
\$1,168.64 - Campout (Other reservation payments received in prior quarters)
\$1,775.09 - WSGA/Gold Ape Volunteer Coins
\$1,061.50 - Silver Ape

Upcoming Expenses –

Chapter Allocations: We expect most of the outgoing money in this last part of the year to be for Chapter Allocations. The money is available for your events and activities. Please use it! Just forward your receipts for reimbursement. 2011 Campout. Money may be needed to reserve the campsite. 2011 WSGA Geocoin: Plan is to have it available early next year. Once Silver Ape Coin sales start and renewals start coming in we should be able to handle this outlay also.

Upcoming Proceeds –

2011 Renewals. Plan to put reminders in the newsletter and the early release of the 2011 WSGA geocoin should help renewals.

Silver Ape Coin sales. Sales started off at the very end of September, and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Elaine moved that we approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Abby seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

▪ **Nonprofit Status for the club – Jim**

No update on legal status. Plan is to file non-profit status with the Washington State. Jim highly recommended that this as something that should be pursued in 2011 stating that the WSGA really needs to get resolution on our status and that it will also help in booking venues as some give preference and \$\$\$ savings to non-profits.

Abby: *"Ok, we'll carry that over as old business for 2011, for the new treasurer to handle."*

▪ **Membership Report – Abby**

Abby: *"Membership continues to grow. We are getting new members each week, which is unusual for this time of year. As of this moment, we are at 342 members: 329 Full and 13 Associate. This is about 80 more than we closed out last year with. Many folks have expressed their delight with the Fall Member Bonus. Kudos to Jim for the idea and we are also sending it to new members will supplies last. As agreed at the last meeting, the newsletter is now members-only and issues are posted on the website after it's distributed. Thanks to Jim and Caroline for handling that. The member-only newsletter has probably encouraged a few renewals/new members but I think the club's overall momentum this year has also helped."*

It was mentioned that we still needed a pinned thread for them in the forums creating a repository. Debbie pointed out that the new WSGA Membership flyers have been great. People receiving them were impressed and appreciated the availability of the information.

▪ **Chapter Reports**

○ **48 North – 33**

Margaret: *"48N does indeed have a holiday party set in Marysville -- 12/10 at 6pm We've had, including the upcoming event, three WSGA chapter events; we were slightly overshadowed during the summer months by GW8, but all were well attended."*

Abby: *"Also, Johnny Cache 79 held two WSGA events, which I guess could count as either 48N or north Puget Sound. It's good to have members help us out, esp. since chapter areas are so large."*

○ **Cache-cadians – 16**

Amber: *"We've had about 5 events so far. CITO, On The Way to GW8, May anniversary, etc. We're planning a Christmas event. I haven't heard anyone pipe up to be a rep next year, tho."*

○ **Inland Empire – 32**

Elaine (for Lee): *"Ok, I didn't review our year but we had a couple events in spring then let GW8 and campout take over summer 10-10-10 weekend was full: two CITO's. One with Washington Trails Association (WTA). They are GREAT to work with. Have a Halloween event this weekend. Then will do our annual party in January complete with slide show of 2010 highlights."*

○ **South Central WA – 15**

Alan: *"We had two official events so far. First was a flash mob in the spring. Then we hosted the 2010 campout (that counts as two or three, doesn't it?). [We are] still planning the end of year event."*

Abby: *"I'd also like to point out that Ye Old Impostor has been a good supporter of WSGA, encouraging folks over there to join and also he holds monthly events in the Tri-Cities, even if they aren't WSGA events."*

There was some discussion on how to encourage Yakima-area cachers to join the WSGA.

- **Southwest WA – 15**

Debbie: *“Due to a heavy work schedule not much has been happening. [There are no holiday plans] at this time.”*

- **North Olympic Peninsula – 43**

Caroline (for Russ who had technical difficulties and was unable to sign-on): *“Our year started off with a bang with our "Islands" event. We then focused on leaving the peninsula and attending all of the terrific events on the other side of the pond. We have had some really terrific non-WSGA events in the Kitsap Peninsula. We have a final WSGA event in the early planning stages to take place in the Clallam [or Jefferson] County area. Some really strong WSGA supporters are putting the final touches on approval and preparations for an end of the year bash.”*

- **Puget Sound – 175**

Craig: *“Our holiday party will be Jan 15 (or 22) most likely. I'm working on a new church for the shindig. [Chris] Mc3cats has agreed to run as Chap Rep for 2011, and I think he will do a great job.”*

Abby: *“To give a short overview of 2010 in PS. We were, of course, a bit overshadowed by GeoWoodstock 8 for the first half of the year. However, jcar held a great event in February, and johnny cache 79 did two or three events, including a CITO and an On the Road event for GW8. WellJointed also hosted two WSGA-PS events, a CITO and a Fireworks 4th event for GW8. And rodgowdy did a great WSGA CITO at Discovery Park. I did two APE-related events for WSGA: the big Going APE event during GW8, and the Putting a Lid on the APE event in late July. So, the PS membership did a pretty good job of hosting events for our members. [P]robably the only place we've faltered is this fall. Thanks to mc3cats for hosting an upcoming event in early November!”*

- **WSGA 2011 Geocoin – Margaret**

Margaret: *“The plan is to have a coin designed and at the mint by the end of the year. This year, I've asked for designs in the forums, both ours and the geocoin forum on gc.com. The response so far has been less than I'd hoped for, with only one design being posted on gc.com. I had heard that there was some interest from some design students (post high school) but so far, have not heard from them. For the time being, the cut-off date for submissions is 11/8, although, depending on further response, could be extended.”*

After some discussion on how to increase interest and responses, Margaret stated that she would bump the threads to see if that helped.

- **Campout 2001 Recommendation – Al**

Al: *“The results of the committee discussion and evaluation are posted in the Campout 2011 forum, so this will be a very brief summary. The committee found that the Chief Timothy Park campsite met most, if not all, criteria for a good campground for the WSGA 2011 Campout. The committee therefore recommends that the proposed campsite at Chief Timothy Park be accepted.”*

After a brief discussion on cost, it was determined that the prices are in the general range of previous campouts and that the host chapter will have to present the exact costs to the board for approval.

Abby: *“Al has [also] produced an amazing 'how to plan a campout' document to help future campout hosts. Great stuff, if you haven't seen it yet.”*

Craig made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Campout Planning Committee and approve Chief Timothy Park (Asotin County) in the IE Chapter as the location of the 2011 Campout? Debbie seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

- **WSGA Merchandise – Abby, Jim**

Abby: *“Just a brief update - we have silver Ape coins and Cachekinz for sale. The online store page is up, and we are selling them at some events (mainly me or Jim). Jim has mailed out chapter swag to most reps.”*

Jim: *"All chapter swag allocations have been sent, with the exception of North Olympic which I will hand over to Tolmaus soon when I see her and Puget Sound which I will give to Abby soon. Part of SW went to Idaho who hosted an event there recently. I think I heard back from everyone that it was received. Please let me know if there were any issues. Here is a status of what we currently have in the way of swag on hand –*

*69 - Gold Ape
618 - Silver Ape
900+ - Cachekinz
108 reg / 17 member - 2010 WSGA Coins
30+ GW shirts
Other misc shirts, pens, and caps.*

Silver Ape sales have been slow but steady. Cachekinzs have been slow also. WSGA coins an occasional order comes in. We will probably continue to use those as swag giveaways into next year. It would be great if we could get someone from another section of the state that goes to lots of events to handle some of the merchandise. I really hoped to get across the state this year with some of it, but was unable to.

Abby: *"Also, for those wondering about the remaining gold APE coin, some volunteers chose not to buy a coin, and we had made enough to honor our promise to all the volunteers. So, we have some left for special giveaways and such. Avroair has suggested we raise money by selling some of them on eBay, but not sure Jim or others would agree with that."*

Elaine posed the question on how chapters can obtain and sell merchandise at chapter events. There was some discussion on how to keep track of funds and merchandise.

Abby stated that, *"One thought is to take it out of chapter allocations, if you have it, and then you pay it back as you sell. Nobody should be out any personal funds, but we do need to keep a good accounting of the merchandise and funds. To Jim's point - we would love to have a merchandise manager in Eastern WA. Sort of a deputy for Jim and Tree (our merchandise manager, who orders everything). If other chapter reps want to make arrangements to sell merchandise, talk to Jim."*

▪ **Parks Advocacy – Abby**

The first two caches in North Cascades National Park were published shortly after the last Board meeting. This is the first western national park to permit physical caches. [A] big win for WSGA and geocachers! The rangers have said they will see how they fare and then consider whether to allow more (by cachers besides me :))

Other good news: We are finally reaching closure with Bellevue City Parks after a YEAR of angsty interactions and cachers with caches on hold. They first suggested they might ban caching, or require all caches to get permission first and this is a huge park system. Then they said, maybe only virtual caches. We had to explain - no longer an option. Finally, after I met with them a couple times they decided on a reasonable set of guidelines and got rid of some silly stuff, like size restrictions and most importantly - no pre-approvals. All existing caches are being allowed to stay without going through approval process, and new ones don't require pre-approval. [One] exception is Mercer Slough, just got the determination from them for most of the caches there, and will be notifying the owners a year later. Frankly, Bellevue has been a real pain to work with, so glad this is almost over, hopefully.

In other news: Ferndale City Parks up in Whatcom has joined the Park Liaison Program, and a new WSGA member has signed on as their liaison - in fact, he drove the engagement. Woo hoo to Radmando & Sons!

We have a pretty good system for engaging with parks and a document to guide liaisons. And I hope to do more of that next year a la [Al's] campout planning guide, to help others who work with parks.

Finally, we just dealt with a cache issue with Pierce County Public Works over the weekend, and that was resolved to their satisfaction, with the help of a reviewer.

There followed some discussion about Federal Way Parks and caches in St. Helen's NP. Abby stated that permits are required for Mount St Helens and to her knowledge, current cache owners have obtained them.

Abby: "There are dozens of park systems throughout the state, and limited bandwidth on our end, so we don't proactively seek out most park systems. [Parks Advocacy Committee] will be happy to work with them if they request it."

NEW BUSINESS

- **Elections for 2011 Board – Elaine**

Elaine: "Elections occur Dec 1-15. First order of business, must form a 3-person nominating committee. [I] will take volunteers tonight; anyone up for the task? Otherwise, I will do a drawing and assign members. Then committee will devise a slate from membership recommendations (and any of you who are eager to serve again for 2011!) and publish it by Nov. 15 We are to have the slate published two weeks before elections so members have time to ponder. Also, would like to see a ballot with write in possibilities for all positions."

Abby: "I've told Elaine I will publish the announcements she needs to the membership via our newsletter program. Last year, we began taking nominations at this board meeting, and then opened it up to the membership via an email announcement."

The floor was opened for nominations. The Nominating Committee will then verify active membership of all nominees.

Nominations:

Craig nominated Chris Brue (Mc3cats) for PS Rep.

Abby nominated Jim Bertrand (jcar) for Secretary, Caroline (tolmaus) for North Olympic Peninsula chapter rep, Elaine Edwards (Lucymogus) for IE chapter rep and Al Funk (acfunk) for Vice President.

Abby also nominated Margaret Dunn (FluteFace) to return as 48N rep.

Elaine Edwards nominated Abby Wolfe (hydNSEK) as President.

Abby nominated Jo Dunn (idajo2) as SW Chapter Rep.

Amber Barber tentatively accepted Abby's nomination as Cache-cadians Chapter Rep.

Treasurer is a position still open. It was pointed out that treasurer is a key job that needs someone willing to put in the time, attention to detail and record-keeping, good with money, and wants to be an officer.

The Elections Nominating Committee was chosen by random drawing and consists of Elaine as the chair, Amber, and Jim.

- **Family Membership Proposal – Abby**

From the WSGA BOD Forums: Abby: "As you know, WSGA membership accounts are a mixed bag (just like on gc.com): some accounts (caching names) represent a single person (hydNSEK), some a couple (acfunk), some an entire family (jcar). For accounts representing multiple people, this has disadvantages for them and for the club. For members, we treat all accounts as if they are one person - one name tag (usually), one member bonus, etc. For the club, while every member account pays the same dues (\$12), four people attending an event use more resources than one person (this also factors into chapter resources); likewise, if we offered multiple nametags to everyone on joint accounts, it would incur more cost.

I've had many folks on group accounts ask if they can have additional name tags, and several have suggested we have a family account of some sort. (We have a few members who voluntarily pay double on their dues since they have two people on their account.)

So, I think it's time for us to consider a new account scenario for the benefit of both our members and club resource planning. There are some wrinkles we need to work out, but that's part of the discussion.

My proposal:

WSGA begin offering two types of memberships: Individual and Family.

Individual Membership: \$12. One person, and identical to our current account setup. One name tag, one of whatever we do for members. One vote.

Family Membership: \$18. Two or more people under one account. Dues are more than a single account but less than two separate accounts. They list the members when they register (so we'd need to update the membership forms, both online and print), and each gets an individual nametag. For other stuff, it's double what a single account gets - that is, two member bonuses (so, it would have been two pathtags and patches). Yes, some accounts are families, not couples, but we need to set limits to make it equitable and financially feasible. One vote. This approach is the general consensus I've gotten from members who've discussed it.

Also, if people choose to renew as Individual accounts instead of Family accounts, that's up to them, we are not going to force group accounts to make a switch. But they will receive the benefits of an Individual membership (one name tag, etc.).

Discussion followed involving how chapter allocations would be affected by family memberships. It was stated that we would have a better handle on WSGA demographics (single vs families) allowing better planning and allocation of funds and materials.

Abby: "To sum it up: The Individual account would be identical to the current Full Member account. The new Family account would be \$18/year (only \$6 more), and would include nametags for all people on the account, adult and child (no limit). It would also include double (2) of any member bonuses and other things that we currently provide one of to members. However, a Family account would still have just one vote (not an issue with anyone I've spoken to) and if we have a limit on coins, like 3 per member, that wouldn't change. The key things are everyone gets a name tag, they get double member bonuses ("why didn't we get two pathtags?"), and we get a better handle on our membership plus offset some of the expenses of multiples under accounts (like for event expenses, etc.).

Craig moved we add Family Memberships to the list, as proposed in the forums. Al seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

- **APE events when Snoqualmie Tunnel reopens – Abby**

Abby: "The Snoqualmie Tunnel is supposed to reopen next summer - so the Tunnel of Light to the APE cache will be back in action. Our APE event was a huge success this summer. I propose that WSGA hold Going APE All Over Again at Hyak next summer after the tunnel opens. No buses or fees - just a big party at Hyak and folks can walk or bike the tunnel to the cache. Big enthusiasm from those who've heard about it so far. We will still need park permits, but we know the ropes now and we can spend some club funds for goodies.

My ideal scenario is to do it Sunday, Aug. 21, the day after the Groundspeak Block Party, so it's a regional draw and/or, because the tunnel is supposed to open in June, we could do the grand opening in June. I'm actually thinking two events - smaller one in June for the locals, blowout in August. if we have resources for both. I also agree to manage the events, if I have helpers. What do you think? We don't have to decide anything, but I wanted it on your radar and get initial thoughts and get the word out if we think it's viable."

We [will] sell APE coins/Cachekinz at the events. We have to make off-site arrangements for Hyak, but that's doable. I see this as our big bang for next year, and we could do raffles and stuff around the state leading up to it, to raise awareness and money. [T]wice might be ambitious, but hard to decide what to do if tunnel opens in June but Groundspeak tie-in is in August. Anyway, if y'all think it sounds good in concept, then I'll pursue options, including trying to find out when the tunnel opens, exactly."

Several Board members spoke in support of holding a Going APE event at Hyak in Summer 2011 after the Snoqualmie Tunnel reopens. Decision on event date(s) will be made in 2011 and will depend on date of reopening.

- **\$100 Donation to the Northwest Trails Project – Abby**

Abby proposed that we donate \$100 to the Northwest Trails Project. This is a tremendous public-domain trails resource that many of us find invaluable.

Jim questioned whether or not Jon (Moun10Bike) has levels of sponsorship for NW Trails and would the WSGA receive any recognition at a certain level.

Craig mentioned that an article in the WSGA newsletter would be a good idea. It might also encourage more people to submit tracks.

Abby pointed out that the project is a tremendous resource for most of us, Jon does it for free, and he is a founding member of WSGA.

Margaret moved that the WSGA donate \$100 to NW Trails. Craig seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

Open Discussion

Jim encouraged all the chapter reps to use the funds available to them. If chapters do not have expenses, more swag can be provided in lieu of money. For quicker reimbursement, receipts should be scanned and emailed to wsga.treasurer@gmail.com.

Elaine moved that the meeting be adjourned. Al seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

Adjournment – 10:08 p.m.