

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

16 September 2015

AndrewRJ called WSGA's 16 September 2015 Business Meeting order at 6:34pm.

Board Members in attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), ClayArtist (Patti Stoll), FenchurchE (Fen Eatough), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), Lizzy (Lisa Wasser), Martin5 (Jerry Martin), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Mizdirection (Toni Westgarth), PeachandPete (Annette Bailes), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Verano (Debbie Patton)

Proxies: SirKarp for Mizdirection (last part of meeting)

Also in Attendance: Jcar (Jim Bertrand), Mc3cats (Chris Brue), MedicineManOfSeattle (Alex)

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

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 22 July 2015 were approved unanimously

Comments: None

Membership Report

Report by Lizzy

Membership Counts and Chapter Breakdowns

as of 9/13/2015

Chapters	Current Accounts				Current TOTALS	
	Individual	Family	Assoc/Ind	Assoc/Fam	Accounts	Members
Puget Sound	83	59	1	0	143	254
48 North	32	23	3	0	58	99
Inland Empire	15	13	6	2	36	66
South Central	16	11	1	1	29	47
Olympic Peninsula	14	11	0	0	25	41
Southwest	11	10	2	1	24	43
Cache-Cadia	12	7	0	0	19	29
Unaffiliated	0	0	5	0	5	5
CHAPTER TOTALS	183	134	18	4	339	584
LAST REPORTED	166	122	15	4	307	529
Net Gains	17	12	3	0	32	55

Chapters	Totals at 7/19/2015		Gains This Period		Totals a Year Ago		This Year compare to Last Year	
	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Accounts	Members	Trend	Percent
Puget Sound	129	232	14	22	166	280	↘	-13.86%
48 North	51	92	7	7	48	85	↗	20.83%
Inland Empire	35	65	1	1	37	68	↘	-2.70%
South Central	27	42	2	5	25	43	↗	16.00%
Olympic Peninsula	21	30	4	11	21	29	↗	19.05%
Southwest	22	40	2	3	15	26	↗	60.00%
Cache-Cadia	18	24	1	5	16	22	↗	18.75%
Unaffiliated	4	4	1	1	7	7	↘	-28.57%
TOTALS:					335	560	↗	1.19%

Chapters	Accounts	
	New this Year	Renewals
Puget Sound	25	118
48 North	15	43
Inland Empire	4	32
South Central	6	23
Olympic Peninsula	0	25
Southwest	11	13
Cache-Cadia	5	14
Unaffiliated	1	4
TOTAL	67	272

Detail Report as of 9/13/2015

Comparisons to last year are just a bit skewed because we are comparing membership at the END of September last year to the numbers for the MIDDLE of this September. It looks like we are doing better than last year at this time for membership!

Southwest Chapter is still a whopping 60% gain over last year in membership with 48 North next in line in gains! Kudos to those two chapters for leading the way!! I know that many of the chapters have been working tirelessly at boosting their membership as well and we really appreciate all of the clever ways you work to make gains in your chapter numbers. Overall – a very healthy membership total.

We had a big boost in new memberships this period - many came in during the Block Party and the Ape Event. We are sending those badges & welcome letters out now - new members will be getting those this week. We have a slight delay in getting their new member gifts out to them, as we wait for the next batch of pathtags to come in (on order).

With so many new memberships coming in, during the next couple of weeks, I will be working on putting together an updated member list for our chapter reps to help you get your records up to date. I'll put together another similar list for you at year's end with membership expiration dates, so that chapter reps can remind their members that need to renew for 2016.

Comments:

SirKarp reports having lots of positive feedback on holding member only raffles at Chapter events in addition to the standard raffles that are open to everyone.

Financial Report

Report by HippyChick1620

July 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$14,781.35

Income:

- Memberships: \$363.00
- Misc. sales: \$139.00
- Coin Sales: \$52.00
- Campout: \$401.00
- APE event: \$10,464.00
- Fee refund: \$0.55
- Chapter donation: \$90.42
- (Total: \$11,509.97)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$448.06
- Order shipping: \$37.86
- Duplicate dues refund: \$19.00
- APE event: \$4,653.41
- Campout: \$92.00
- Stop pymt on check fee: \$15.00
- Chapter allocation: \$77.18
- Total (\$5,342.51)

July 31, 2015 ending balance: \$20,948.81 (\$6,167.46 gain)

August 1, 2015 Starting balance: \$20,948.81

Income:

- Memberships: \$308.00
- Misc. sales: \$413.00
- Coin Sales: \$377.00
- Campout: \$60.00
- APE event: \$2488.00
- Fee refund: \$0.87
- Donation: \$0.50
- Transfer from PayPal to Chase: \$8,500.00
- (Total: \$12,147.37)

Expenses:

- PayPal fees: \$102.16
- Order shipping: \$52.97
- Swag bag refund: \$30.00
- APE supplies: \$1,449.41
- APE Merchandise: \$9,123.53
- Campout: \$871.95
- Petty cash w/d for APE/BP events: \$990.00
- Transfer from PayPal to Chase: \$8,500.00
- Total (\$21,120.02)

August 31, 2015 ending balance: \$11,976.16 (\$8,972.65 loss)

September is currently running income ahead of expenses, due to the APE & Block Party cash being deposited.

BLOCK PARTY

The final Block Party was wildly successful. People started visiting the booth at about 8:30 and we had a line most of the time until about 4:45pm, perfect for tear-down at 5pm. We brought in \$3,647 for the day, with about \$250 (estimated) of that being new memberships. This is such a great event & I will miss it immensely.

APE EVENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As most of you know, our Annual Going APE! Mega Event is our cash cow, this is our major fundraiser that helps carry us forward. This year, due to it being a bigger event, we had more in expenses than in years past. That being said, we also brought in more as a result. We spent \$17,126.25 in supplies & merchandise, and made \$25,129.78 in merchandise sales & donations, for a profit of \$8,003.53.

Comments: None

Merchandise Report

Report by NepoKama

We are very low on all merchandise due to a huge amount of sales at the Block Party and APE Event. We have new pathtags on order and do have a little bit of APE swag left as well as the WSGA Kinzy. The new coin for 2016 will be our next big project.

Comments: There was discussion of the idea of updating existing WSGA shirts to make them trackable or whether we should just order new ones. AndrewRJ made a motion to approve new trackable shirts, which was passed unanimously, with discussion of the details to occur in the forums.

Next was a discussion of new merchandise possibilities. Tumbleweedpirates introduced the idea of the WSGA becoming a contractor for event sales, creating things like swag bags in conjunction with event organizers to sell at events. FenchurchE brought up the idea of creating a WSGA pin, citing the success of the APE event pin and there was discussion of various pin ideas, including making it trackable and also eventually doing pins for individual chapters. AndrewRJ brought up the idea of creating a forum thread for WSGA members to submit ideas for other possible merchandise.

2015 Campout

Report by LadyCosmic

The campout was a great success. We had about 93 people (including kids) in attendance on Saturday's dinner and meeting. Only 33 of the 93 were Saturday attendees only.

We came in under budget. Here are the numbers I have but they have not been confirmed them with Kristine.

Expenses: \$1538.02

Deposit/Fees: \$426.07

Group Campsite Final Payment: \$511.21

Food/Supplies: \$600.74

Income: \$2161.00

Difference: \$622.98

Although it was a lot of work I really enjoyed the campout. Having it in a group campsite made a difference in getting to know other caches. Thank you to everyone that helped out. The campout would not have been a success without each volunteer.

Recommendation for future campouts:

Have cellphone numbers for each RV in case of power outages or other emergencies.

Bring containers for recycling plastic bottles.

Comments:

None

APE Event

Report by AndrewRJ

Our 6th-annual Going APE mega-event on Aug. 16 was our largest and most-successful yet, with an estimated 3,000 attendees from around the globe.* This was even larger than our most optimistic estimates. 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 higher this year in almost every area due to a combination of costs and needing to order additional merchandise from the large number of attendees. Final numbers will be added by Kristine. For the past four 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. As you all know, Groundspeak has chosen another path concerning the Block Party and as such we will no longer have the support of the Block Party to drive numbers

to our event. I intend that we will again hold an even next year to gauge interest and the fall off in attendance.

This was the first year without Hydnesek as the director, and with myself in her place. I have a much better understanding of all the balls she kept in the air without her many notes and experience we would have had a much harder time pulling everything off. My assistant directors, hippychick1620, and our crew chiefs (Lizzy, FugeFinders, Peach&Pete, FenchurchE, Frisky Biscuits, jcar, Rambudo) did amazing jobs planning and running their areas of the event (Parking, Welcome, Swag Presales, Swag Sales, Refreshments, Tunnel Monitors, Lab Caches).

And, of course, none of this would have happened without our amazing volunteers - 63 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 yellow vs. attendee red), and 20 of them who went above-and-beyond are also be receiving special volunteer versions of this year's Ape coin (crew chiefs, those who worked all day, etc.).

*Attendance comparison: 2014 – 1,500; 2013 - 1,350; 2012 - 1,100; 2011 - 720; 2010 - 550. (Per Groundspeak convention, attendance estimates are x2 the Attended logs, rounded.)

Comments:

Special thanks to Mr. Gadget #2 and his birdhouse caches, which were a big hit.

Outreach Report

Report by Snowflake24

Geocaching Adventure at Issaquah Salmon Days: On behalf of the Kokanee Work Group (KWG), WSGA will help put on a Geocaching Adventure (lab cache series) at Issaquah Salmon Days on Oct. 3-4. The KWG is a consortium of 30+ government agencies, NGOs, and nonprofits working to raise awareness and support for restoration of the kokanee salmon in the Lake Sammamish watershed. The US Fish & Wildlife Service and King County are the lead organizations, and the goal of this Adventure is to use geocaching to raise kokanee awareness among attendees (Salmon Days draws 150,000 people each year) as well as promote the upcoming Kokanee Quest, a geocaching challenge that launches in early November. Thanks to hydnesek for this request and for organizing with mc3cats, who will manage the "Salmon Adventure" at the event, with volunteers (recruitment forthcoming).

Skagit County Girl Scouts: We received a request via the WSGA Forums for a geocaching class on October 17 for girl scouts at Riverfront Park in Sedro Woolley. Mc3cats is also taking the lead on this event. The group is anticipated to be 40+ girls in grades 4 and up. Requested content includes learning to use GPS units, trading items, and releasing/tracking TBs.

Comments: None

WSGA Parks Liaison Manager Report

Report by Annette of Peach & Pete

All has been fairly quiet in the Parks Liaison area as far as I know. I did get word that the Bellevue Parks Liaison (Louis Bliss) was moving away from our area so I have attempted to contact her to learn if indeed she needs to be replaced, and asked her input for that position. Have not heard back, and will continue to try and resolve this situation as soon as possible as it becomes necessary.

Because I still serve as Parks Liaison for Auburn and Kent Parks, I have been very busy with Auburn in doing project management for their upcoming 2015 Auburn Geocaching Adventure, to be held October 17, 2015 with 20 placements in 20 Auburn parks (some of which are fairly new or unfamiliar parks). This project is progressing well and I look forward to welcoming many of you that I see have already logged your "Will Attend" on the event cache listing. I very much appreciate your support and attendance, as WSGA supported this with a small grant in 2014. I've engaged 14 geocachers to hide these caches, some of which are very familiar to you and some are Auburn locals who simply volunteered via the Cachers of Puget Sound Facebook announcement I made. Hoping their involvement will get them interested in WSGA if they aren't already a member.

I also volunteered again this year at the APE event, as Pete and I handled the Refreshments & Rest Area/First Aid areas. This was hard work, but such fun visiting with all the people who come from near and far, far away, and I appreciate all the WSGA volunteers for their untiring efforts that I've come to know through this annual event.

Comments: None

GeoTour Sponsorships

Report by hydnek

Washington State Parks GeoTour

The State Parks GeoTour has had a third successful summer, albeit less busy than the previous two. Finishers are now down to a trickle, but several folks are still enthusiastically working on it. Kudos: WatchDogsMike recently commented: "This is by far the best GeoTour in the state." We've received many wonderful comments like this over the past two years, including a few hand-written letters - music to my and the State Parks' ears!

Missing Stamps: Unfortunately, we've had a lot of stamps (and sometimes caches) go missing this year, more than previous years. I've had to order a third round of stamps and pads to keep up (again, thanks to PhilNi for donating the wood stamps). Some cache owners are frustrated with the constant maintenance required, esp. those with long-distance caches, as we require them to handle issues promptly to keep the caches active for the GeoTour.

End of GeoTour (or not?): When the GeoTour was launched on June 7, 2013, it was expected to last 1-2 years (that's what it still says in the Guidelines that cachers receive), but extending it a third year (including a third summer) was a no-brainer based on its success and the State Parks' reminding of the geocoins. A few weeks ago, Ranger Tina Dinzi-Pederson (my partner as GeoTour manager on the Parks side) confirmed that the State Parks planned to end the GeoTour after this third year, which would be June 6, 2016 (when the current paid GeoTour ends on geocaching.com).

In addition, we'd heard from various responsible parties that they were ready to wind it down:

- The State Parks is thrilled with its success, but it requires ongoing overhead (esp. for Ranger Tina) and they'd like to free up the bandwidth (and budget) to do other things – including future geocaching projects. Besides Tina, the GeoTour involves several folks internally at the State Parks, plus staff at the 102 parks.
- Some of the 60+ cache owners are ready to be done. They are tired of the high maintenance requirement - having to replace stamps promptly and ensure the caches remain active all the time. Esp. an issue for those who own caches some distance away (right, Kristine?). Some are already lax about that (not Kristine!). While some COs would keep their caches in place once the GeoTour is retired, others would likely archive or adopt out theirs.
- Groundspeak has hinted they'd like to retire it, partly because they give us such a huge break on the cost (in comparison to current GeoTour costs).

All told, nearly 200 people are involved in keeping the GeoTour going in one way or another, so it's not an insignificant ask for them to continue doing it year after year.

Ideas for continuation: That said, once we announced the end of the GeoTour in social media, we heard from a few folks that they didn't feel they could finish in 10 months and would like at least one more summer to work on it. So, Tina talked to her managers again, and Andrew and I both talked with Tina. Here are a few preliminary thoughts – none of this is decided, and Andrew will lead the Board discussion on possible next steps, which of course he and I will share with the State Parks, as ultimately it's their decision, as it's their GeoTour.

- It would no longer be a formal GeoTour on geocaching.com (which is spendy), but the challenge with passports and prizes would continue. (So, we'd need to make some updates to the template language on the cache pages.)
- We'd need to decide how long it would continue and publicize a firm end date for awareness, but it would run at least through next summer. We have plenty of coins, so folks would continue to get their silver or gold coins by submitting completed passports.
- Next May/June (end of third year), cache owners no longer wishing to participate could arrange to have their caches adopted by others. As the GeoTour project manager, I would work with them on that when the time comes. Some caches might be adopted by their parks (or they might offer to help COs with maintenance), others might be archived, but we would evaluate

each cache individually. If enough caches were retired, we wouldn't give out gold coins anymore, but we should retain enough for silver coins.

- We might do away with the stamps after the third year, instead moving to a code word system as stamps disappear. While this makes it much easier to cheat (one reason many tours use stamps), it would be a practical solution to the ongoing stamp-replacement dilemma.

There are other ideas percolating, but these are the key ones.

As State Parks geocaching liaison and GeoTour co-manager, I will continue to be involved in the discussions (altho not at this Board meeting) and the primary point person in working with WSGA and the State Parks on next steps, with Tina and Andrew as my primary contacts on each end. (I'm sure Andrew will fill me in after this meeting on what y'all discuss.)

Finally, here are stats for the State Parks GeoTour (June 2013 – August 2015), courtesy of rambudo:

There are 103 caches in 102 parks.

Total Finds: 35,069

Total DNFs: 371 (mostly missing caches)

Total Favorite points: 2,680 (all have at least 4)

Cachers who have found/hidden:

100+: 43

90+: 51

80+: 64

70+: 79

60+: 109

50+: 214

40+: 239

30+: 288

20+: 368

10+: 594

5+: 1009

1+: 7996

DNFs only: 58

Cachers who have found all 103 caches: 11

Mr. Gadget #2, rambudo, rocketglider, lamoracke, FugeFinders, benandjayme, rb2006, Peach&Pete, Frisky Biscuits, yellow1961, jim and jan

Most Found:

2310: Iron Horse – Hyak (thank you, Ape event!)

774: Peace Arch

730: Fort Casey

616: Saint Edward

588: Saltwater

Least Found:

96: Fields Spring

103: Crawford

119: Mount Pilchuck

120: Camp Wooten

120: Curlew Lake

Most Favorite Points:

143: Fort Worden

113: Rosario Beach - Deception Pass

107: Potholes

87: Peace Arch

76: Wenatchee Confluence

Visit Rainier Centennial GeoTour

Series 1 of the Rainier GeoTour launched on June 13, and cachers are racking up finds on the 25 caches, although it hasn't been as busy as expected. As of Aug. 31, Visit Rainier had distributed 23 pathtags for completed passports (2.5 months into the GeoTour). Below you can see the current stats.

Series 2 launches Friday, Oct. 9, and we are in the midst of getting the caches placed and write-ups done. I had a brief panic when a few of the prolific COs from Series 1 were unavailable this time, but a quick call-out got me a ton of helpers – I now have 18 potential COs, more than the first series. (Most of whom will continue for the next two series, so we should set for the duration.) To make it easier on the COs and ensure we meet Visit Rainier's goals on locations to highlight, I have researched and created a detailed list of potential locations for the three remaining series, including resource links. While VR wants each series to circle Mt Rainier, I've adjusted that a bit for seasonal issues (snow, pass closures) – for example, Series 2 won't have caches along the Chinook Scenic Byway due to pass closures preventing access; instead, Series 3 next spring will have more of an emphasis there.

The Series 2 pathtag is designed and in production, and the new passport is in final draft. We won't have a kickoff for the second series (or later ones); instead, we'll announce the release dates and times in various online venues.

Series 3 release date is now May 27, 2016. (I reminded Visit Rainier that snow and closed passes would inhibit cache placing as well as finding for an April 1 release.) Series 4 release is still planned for Sept. 16, 2016, at which point the geocoin (series completion) will be available in addition to the series pathtags.

On a side note, Visit Rainier has hired me as project manager for the entire series (through 2016), so I'll continue to be your primary contact for anything regarding the Rainier GeoTour.

Here are current stats for the Rainier GeoTour (June – August 2015), courtesy of rambudo. Congrats to Hazard, who has the two most-favorited caches in Series 1: Suntop Lookout and Laysen Cave (which is one of the least-found caches – high favorites-to-finds ratio there!).

There are 25 caches in phase 1.

Total Finds: 2,611

Total DNFs: 26

Total Favorite points: 168 (all have at least 1)

Cachers who have found/hidden:

25: 33

20+: 49

15+: 62

10+: 90

5+: 152

1+: 436

DNFs only: 3

Most Found:

173: Visit Rainier

152: Welcome to Crystal Mountain

143: Federation Forest

137: Eatonville, Washington

128: A Family Farm

Least Found:

71: Eagle Rock View

71: Road To Mowich Lake

74: Feeding the Elk

81: Pacific Crest Trail at Leech Lake

83: Architecture of the Cascades

83: Laysen Cave

Most Favorite Points:

29: Suntop Lookout

21: Laysen Cave

11: On the way to Sheep Lake

10: Wilkeson Coke Ovens

10: A Family Farm

10: The Glaciers are Restless

10: The Ghosts of Lahars

Comments: With the official GeoTour ending soon, there was discussion on whether to continue supporting the tour as a way to help promote the club and the State Parks, at least until the remaining coins run out. Several ideas were mentioned for dealing with disappearing stamps,

including the possibility of code words instead or even paper punches. AndrewRJ will be contacting the COs of the GeoTour caches to discuss steps and ideas.

Small Grant Program

Report by AndrewRJ

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 second grant period was January-March 2015, and we funded two great proposals from the City of Spokane: (supported by Cachedfish) and Pend Oreille County (supported by the TC life). They will be providing us with reports on their funded activities this fall, so that we can assess the success of the second year of our Small Grants program.

We also had some significant growing pains with the last year, which showed that there were clarifications needed as to the intent and scope of the Small Grant Program. I intend to review the comments and will bring possible changes to the board for review prior to the next board meeting.

Comments: None

Other Business

AndrewRJ made a motion that the issue of unlicensed use of the Ape image be considered closed. Motion passed.

Chapter Reports

Southwest Chapter report by verano

I am helping at a special event in Woodland in honor of one of our local WSGA members turning 70 years old on September 20 called "Classic 1945."

I am helping Laurie Freeman (Wizard of Ooze) prepare for the Cache Dash Splash event coming up in my Rep area, as well as helping the weekend of the event. The Friday event is <http://coord.info/GC5W6DV>

October 3 will be a World Space Week event in Ridgefield... just a meet and greet with some Space trivia thrown in.

Later in October I will host a WSGA meet and greet in Centralia.

Starting to plan a holiday event.

I continue to attend the GEOregon meetings and cross-post all upcoming SW WA activities on the Portland Geocaching FB page.

South Central Chapter report by tumbleweedpirates

We been chilling! Since the last board meeting in July we have had one event at our local Sterlings Resturant in August. About 30 of us had dinner and WSGA got some DQ cake for all to enjoy. Then we gave away some stuff.

The Tumbleweedpirates did attend the Oregon City GeoCoin event on Aug 8th. This was a combination of all their community coins into one. For us it was a nice coin and well done. But we really missed doing all the coins one at a time at a relaxed pace. This was 60 caches in a day or two and I don't think the goal of these cities is to just be rushed over. But we got a cool coin.

The Tumbleweedpirates also did do the Spokane History GeoTour it was also well done and not so many which allowed us to also enjoy the community more.

The South Central WSGA will be setting up an interactive introduction to Geocaching booth at Sacajewea State Park on Sept 26 a free state park day (GC62Y8W) as we did on June 6th this year. It will be well attended and we expect to host over 100 people at our booth. We have also set up Geo 101 class times with the City of Richland Parks and Rec that we will advertise at the Sept 26 park event. This event will also host a dinner at my place for all volunteers that help that weekend. We will also have volunteers at the park on Sept 25th explaining Caching and handing out flyers with Pasco Park and Rec.

Next we are looking at a special Christmas event and some smaller get togethers!

Olympic Peninsula by ClayArtist

Personal Note first: Many of you already know that Jim passed away on August 26, if we are connected on FB. Yes, it was hard, but wouldn't have done it any other way. Obviously, it's going to take me a bit to kick into gear, but I am grateful to have this great group of people I belong to and something "to do" for the next while. Thank you all for your immense support. Now, the official report:

WSGA Olympic Peninsula Chapter Report

Once again, activity has been low in our chapter, due to an ongoing personal situation. I was gratified, when I visited the Camp out, at Manchester, to see many people from the Oly Pen Chapter were there. Although I have no date yet in place, I am gearing up to plan the Chapter's holiday event. I plan to attend the big Halloween event in Preston, to help me get "back in the saddle".

Cache-Cadia Chapter report by Mr. Gadget #2

As everyone is aware our area has been hit very hard with many wildland fires this past July and August. The Tunk Block Fire near Riverside and NE of Omak destroyed the home of Bob and Carole Wright (tv wildfire) and without a doubt all of his very unique geocaches located on

his property. Bob is also a wildland fire fighter contractor and at the time his home was destroyed, he was out fighting fires in Tunk Valley protecting homes of his neighbors. I had a few emails and text from Bob prior to losing his home but nothing since. Knowing Bob, he is still looking out for others before himself. We may not hear from him until the last ember is put out.

A little more activity had taken place in our chapter than in the past few months. On Sept 1, we had a event to help those who needed a event to obtain getting the Geo Road Trip event souvenir. On Sept 27, there will be the eighth Waterville: To Wheat to Eat VIII. Finally on October 3, the next Cache Machine is In Quincy and Ephrata area.

I would like to take a moment and comment on the huge success the my lab caches were at the Ape Event. It was a very busy all day long. It was after 1600 hrs when jcar stopped by and told me to close down any time. By then it was two hours past the official quitting time for the event and there were still a crowd of people working the cache containers. One of those I brought was one of my active caches (GC5NVJK Signature X Goldfinger), which was a big hit. I did allow those who mastered opening the cache to also sign the log book for a find. There were a 172 new find logs and 81 favorite points given for the cache for the lab cache. Even today more folks are still logging this cache

48 North Chapter report by mizdirection

Not much to report since I have been working so many hours.

However, the two events at Cabela's have introduced about 200 cachers and new cachers to WSGA. With the help of our volunteers, Cabela's did sell out of all their hotdogs for the donation to the wildfires in Eastern Washington. I will contact Teri at Cabela's for a total donation for that Saturday.

Preparing for the Meet and Greet at Rasar State Park on the 19th. All reports I have had is that because of the dry weather the fishing is still so-so on the rivers.

Puget Sound Chapter report by SirKarp

Events Held:

There have been so many events held over the past several months, CITO's, coin challenges, Ape, Camp Out and just plain old meet and greets, it's been nearly impossible to find a date to hold an event so I have held none since the last report.

I did volunteer at the APE event, I was there all day first to help with set up, later manning the club information booth and even got a few sign ups. I was also present at the WSGA summer camp out more as an attendee, as the camp out committee had the event under control.

Up and coming events:

Sunday September 20th I will be holding GC624Z9 - Afternoon Tea at Glacier Park, in Eatonville from 3 - 5pm. This event will be very similar to the afternoon tea event at Cold Creek Park in Woodinville I held earlier in the year. It's a basic meet & greet event in an area that hasn't seen a WSGA event in sometime. I'll be bringing tea, bagels and cream cheese to the

event and am asking attendees to bring a food item to go along with the tea. I'll be doing what's becomes my usual little general swag raffle and a special WSGA member raffle.

The Second annual Puget Sound Halloween event is now listed. GC60A9G - Nightmare at Preston, it will be held on October 24th from 4:30pm – 8pm. We'll have a potluck, and the mini-haunt going outside. The VASA hall in Preston is allowing us to have the hall all day the Friday before to set up and decorate and all day Sunday after to take things down and do clean up for no extra charges and not much more than what we USE to pay for a half day rental at the Kennydale Hall in Renton. All a real plus as rentals in the Puget Sound area have skyrocketed over the past few years. NW Stinkerbella designed a cachekin and I paid for it to be minted and we'll be offering it for sale at the event. Thanks to Cache Advance for their help with our first minting. We hope to make this an annual thing, minting a new cachekin for the 3rd annual Nightmare next year. We have invited attendees to bring carved pumpkins to display. There will be a costume contest with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for 12 & under, 13 -17 over 18 and best geocaching related costume and swag trick or treat bags for the under 12 crowd. As usual there will be a general swag raffle, a special early bird drawing for a cache container if you post a will attend before Oct 17 and WSGA member drawing for a cache container and coords to a newly placed cache in the area for a FTF. Additionally we have a couple of folks offering to help, but if any of you are interested, or know someone that might be interested in helping out or creating a haunted scene please point them in my direction.

A Bit Further into the Future

Keeping with my typical haunted themes we are exploring a possible restaurant meet and greet or maybe a winter weenie roast for Krampus Day (Dec 6th). For those unaware Krampus punishes children during the Christmas season who had misbehaved or in our case cachers who place nanos in the woods and hides rock cache in piles of rocks. I hope to firm up this plan in the next couple of weeks.

We are also on the look out for a new rental space for the annual January holiday party. Kennydale, has raised their fees considerably, making it not very practical or affordable.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Benefits

SirKarp brought up the idea of finding additional membership benefits. There was a discussion on the possibility of contacting businesses such as outdoor stores to see if a discount could be arranged for members.

Small Grant Program

It was discussed whether to have the small grant program continue in 2016. It was suggested that we continue the program but at a reduced amount. AndrewRJ mentioned that he is looking for a Small Grant Program Assistant and would like assistance with clarification of guidelines. Annette volunteered to help.

2016 Campout

Report by AndrewRJ

It's time to begin planning our 2016 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.

We move the campout between our chapters and that makes this upcoming year an east side event. Based on the last event in the east being cohosted by Cache-cadia with a large assistance by the Inland Empire, I feel that it is time to hold an event in the South Central Chapter.

The Campout is tentatively July 29-31, 2016, 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.

We need to get things underway by October 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: Ideas were proposed on possible future campsites around the state also which chapter is in line to be in charge of the campout event in 2017. Tumbleweedpirates had needed to leave early, so it was decided to postpone further discussion until he was available.

2016 WSGA Geocoin

There was discussion about the type of coin to do (regular size or large) and whether we should try doing on in an unusual shape or possibly a multi-piece coin or a puzzle coin. The idea was proposed to do a large coin with attachable pathtags for the various chapters. There was discussion about the costs involved for the different types of proposed coin ideas.

AndrewRJ proposed doing a simpler coin for 2016 and starting the planning for a special coin for 2017 for the WSGA's 15th Anniversary.

Member Bonus

AndrewRJ started the discussion with the question of whether to do a pathtag as in years past or to try something new like a Kinzy or a WSGA lapel pin. A question was raised about the cost of mailing out lapel pins, but it was mentioned that the cost of buying the pins would be less and would likely offset the cost of postage. Ideas were then discussed about what could be done for a pathtag for this year's bonus, with thoughts on doing something different for next year. The discussion then moved to the new member gift and whether to continue with the old design or move to something new. Verano brought up the idea of making the member bonus and the member gift be the same next year. It was decided to move the remaining discussions to the forum.

HippyChick motioned to adjourn at 8:57pm with everyone in favor.