

## Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

September 26, 2013

Hydnsek called WSGA's 4th Business Meeting of the year to order at 6:34 PM on September 26, 2013.

Board Members in attendance: hydnek (Abby Wolfe), benandjayme (Ben Hewitt), HippyChick1620 (Kristine Norton), psykokiwi (Kelly Wiggans-Crawford), Martin 5 (Jerry Martin), mc3cats (Chris Brue), Geek&Gopher (Ray Harrison), idajo2 (Jo Dunn), tumbleweedpirates (Mike Lowery), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed)

Board Members absent: Kathy McCormack (GrievousAngel)

Proxies: idajo2 for GrievousAngel, mc3cats for Mr. Gadget #2 (who joined the meeting partway through)

Also in attendance: NepoKama (Mitch Eatough)

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Hydnsek welcomed the board members and visitors in attendance.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Minutes from the July 18, 2013 Board Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Membership**

*Report by psykokiwi*

Membership Count and Chapter Breakdowns:

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	98	65	1	164
48 North	37	24	1	62
Cache-Cadia	7	4	0	11
Inland Empire	15	17	3	35
Olympic Peninsula	14	8	0	22
South Central	9	11	0	20
Southwest	8	9	0	17
Unaffiliated	3	3	4	10
Totals as of 7/18/2013	191	141	9	341

Psykokiwi reported that our current total of 341 members is down slightly from October 2012, when we had 355 members. We are tracking to finish the year with about the same membership numbers as last year.

### *Comments*

Hydnsek commented that we are on par with last year despite the minor drop. We often finish the year with a spurt of new members.

Martin 5 asked who makes up the unaffiliated members. The question led to a discussion regarding whether or not new members were being assigned to a default chapter and how the club could best reach out to new members who might not be familiar with the club's chapter boundaries. Psykokiwi and hydnek pointed out that new members are assigned to a chapter by default, but they may choose to unaffiliate later on. All members may choose to change their chapter affiliation regardless of their physical location. Many of the unaffiliated members are associate members who live out of state and may have no natural chapter to affiliate with.

Hydnsek said that the goal is to have associate members feel welcome and have a chapter to call home. Martin 5 said that was what he was concerned about. Hydnek said that the chapter re-alignment a couple years ago meant that every part of Washington state is now included in a chapter.

Martin 5 noted that there were quite a few members of the Inland Empire chapter that had not renewed their memberships and asked for thoughts on encouraging renewal. Mc3cats suggested holding events and talking about the benefits of club membership. Idajo2 said that she sends an email to her chapter members twice a year thanking them for their membership and encouraging lapsed members to renew. Hydnek noted that the paper membership forms describe many of the benefits of membership.

## **Finances**

### *Report by HippyChick1620*

HippyChick1620 reported that on August 1, 2013 the club had \$9,919.73. Income for August was \$11,053.52 and expenses were \$2,566.53, with an ending balance of \$18,407.02 for a monthly gain of \$8,487.29.

She noted that August was a great month since we sold a lot of merchandise. The Block Party event brought in \$1,215.50 in merchandise sales and \$68.00 in memberships for a total of \$1,283.50. The APE event brought in \$14,404.00 in merchandise sales (\$6,105.00 presales and \$4,999.00 day of sales), \$980.00 in parking sales, and \$378.80 in donations for a total of \$15,438.80. The only major expense we had for August was the ~\$2295.00 payment for the APE event shirts.

For September, expenses were running slightly ahead of income, but neither amount was very large. Hippychick1620 did not foresee any major expenses immediately, with the exception of any chapter allotment reimbursements. The 2013 pathtag and 2014 geocoin would be expenses before the end of the year.

Hippychick1620 also reported the following chapter allotments based on current membership levels:

- Puget Sound - \$750.00 (less \$40.46 = \$709.54)
- 48 North - \$410.00
- Olympic Peninsula - \$180.00
- Cache-Cadia - \$107.50
- Inland Empire - \$267.50
- Southwest - \$177.50 (less \$22.26 = \$155.24)
- South Central - \$175.00 (less \$48.75 = \$127.15)

#### *Comments*

Several members expressed their excitement regarding the club's strong financial position.

### **Merchandise**

#### *Report by Hippychick1620*

Hippychick1620 reported that we have sold out of the APE shirts, but we have a few of the 2013 APE event coins left. We completely sold out of our 2013 state coin, the classic APE coin, and the APE cachekinz at the APE event except that benandjayme had a couple of each left for shipping. She still had assorted sizes of our 10th anniversary shirts and sweatshirts, some hats (both green and tan), lanyards and a bunch of the 10th anniversary pathtags.

She said she would like to find a way to put these items online for sale to try to get rid of them, as they are specific to a time and she'd like us to get our money out of them so that we can discuss maybe making some more WSGA generic merchandise to sell. She said that a number of people had asked about more generic merchandise at the August events.

#### *Comments*

Hydnsek commented that a merchandise sale was a good idea to get rid of small quantities of old merchandise and raise more money for new merchandise. There was some discussion about the whether the sale should be for WSGA members only and whether the items for sale should be discounted from previous prices. Members were generally in agreement that selling off the existing merchandise in advance of new

orders was a good thing. Hydnek suggested that she would work with Hippychick1620 to establish prices for the sale and then run it by the full board for approval.

Hydnek said that the club was looking at getting a new, generic WSGA shirt, perhaps the green and white of previous years. There had also been some consideration of pathtags for each chapter, although GrievousAngel decided not to proceed with the pathtag she was considering for the 48 North chapter. Hydnek said she would start a forum thread on those possibilities for discussion.

Hydnek also noted that the officers had compiled an inventory of all WSGA property - both permanent supplies and our merchandise - so that everyone had a better handle on the club's assets and where they are. This didn't include chapter stuff, but overall club items, such as banners, pancake griddles, mailing supplies, and our sales stuff.

### **2013 Member Bonus**

#### *Report by hydnek*

Each fall since 2010, we've gifted our members with a "member bonus" as a thank-you for supporting WSGA. The previous Board voted to make this year's member bonus a new WSGA pathtag. There were two things to discuss and approve: design and quantity.

Design: Mitch had posted his proposed design in the Merchandise forum for review, and several folks had commented. The design featured the Space Needle and Seattle skyline, with Mount Rainier in the background. The back would be our WSGA logo "give back".

Quantity: The club currently has 341 members, of which 141 are Family members who get double bonuses. That means we'd need at least 482 pathtags for the member bonus. Typically, orders must be in increments of 100 after the initial 50 base order. For the 2012 anniversary pathtags, we ordered 1050, and we have tons left partly because we haven't sold them online yet. Hydnek suggested that our initial order for these should be something like 650, which will be plenty for new members, and also allow us to sell additional ones to those members who want more.

#### *Comments*

Hydnek asked whether people were happy with this year's member pathtag featuring imagery from next year's coin. Several board members expressed approval for the matching designs, noting that people might be excited to have a "set" and that the pathtag could serve as a preview of the coin.

Hydnek asked for a motion to make each year's member bonus a pathtag that echoes the annual geocoin. Hippychick1620 so motioned and idajo2 seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Hydnsek asked for a motion to make this year's member bonus the Space Needle/Mount Rainier design posted in the WSGA forums, pending final design tweaks. Psykokiwi so motioned and mc3cats seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Hydnsek asked what the board thought regarding what quantity to order. There was some discussion about whether the new pathtags would be offered for sale and if so, whether they would be sold to members only. Hydnsek suggested that we could sell the new pathtags to members only for about six months, then offer them for general sale.

Hydnsek asked for a motion to order 850 pathtags to be distributed as member bonuses and sold to members only until the prior pathtags sell out, then to be sold to the general public. Psykowiwi so motioned and Martin 5 seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **2013 Campout**

*Report by Geek&Gopher*

We had around 90 people in attendance at the campout this year. The weather was perfect and we had a lot of positive feedback from campers. Our Friday night movie and games were a big hit. Both kids and adults really enjoyed the movie (Escape from Planet Earth) and the theater style popcorn. On Saturday we had several kids' activities, which included the Search for Sasquatch, Making Creative Cache Containers and the big hit of the day, Water Wars. For the adults we had a GPS accuracy contest and everyone enjoyed what the Columbia Gorge had to offer.

The potluck dinner was delicious. Then it was time for the WSGA board meeting, where we presented LeRoy with a Certificate of Appreciation with a Campout Path Tag. It actually brought him to tears. He told us just how much he appreciated us having our event at his campground and what great people the WSGA has. Our raffle drawing went very well with over \$650 in donation merchandise given away. We sold \$265 in raffle tickets prior to the drawing because everyone saw what great prizes were going to be available.

After our Sunday morning breakfast about a dozen of us weeded the flowerbeds along the entrance to the campground as our CITO event. LeRoy was very appreciative and even shared his story of how he obtained the lands for the campground and what it took to get it to where it is today.

We want to thank all the volunteers that helped us during the campout, which helped make the campout a huge success. During the campout we had \$343 in Merchandise Sales, \$285 in Raffle Tickets sales and \$60 in Day Fees for a total of \$688. With that money we pretty much broke even financially for the campout.

## *Comments*

Several members congratulated Geek&Gopher on their successful campout hosting.

## **2014 Campout Planning**

### *Report by hydnek*

Now that the 2013 campout is behind us, we need to decide the location and host of the 2014 campout, which we normally do in the fall so that the hosts can make reservations ASAP and start planning. The one thing we do know is the date. In 2011, the Board established the date as the last weekend in July, which means the next campout will be July 25-27, 2014.

The goal has always been to rotate the campout around the state, and alternate between east and west sides so that all members have the chance to attend a campout near them, and visit different areas as well. The campout has been on the west side for three of the past four years, so ideally the next campout should be hosted by one of the eastern chapters, probably Cache-Cadia, since it's been the longest since they had one. In Cache-Cadia, we've had campouts at Lake Chelan and Squilchuck, so we'd want to look elsewhere.

Northeastern WA has been mentioned a few times in recent years as an area some folks would love to see a campout, although that might be Inland Empire territory. We are currently on great terms with the state parks, thanks to the GeoTour, so we might want to prioritize having the campout in a state park. Two eastern state parks that the McMorrows suggested are Steamboat and Daroga.

We would need a host chapter and campout manager, of course. Since Cache-Cadia is struggling a bit with membership, perhaps IE could partner with CC and the manager could come from IE. Or perhaps a western member would be willing to co-host an eastern campout.

However, if we can't find a host and location in eastern WA, then we have members, including psykikiwi, sproutter, and McMorrows, who are looking at options along the Hood Canal on the Olympic Peninsula. If not for 2014, then we should definitely look at having the 2015 campout in the Hood Canal area. Based on interest, sounds like our campout manager could come from Puget Sound, and be supported by the Olympic Peninsula chapter, whose area it would be in.

## *Comments*

Several others central Washington locations were suggested, including Fish Lake, Lake Wenatchee State Park, Conconully State Park, Jameson Lake, and Steamboat Rock State Park. Hippyck1620 suggested that the temperatures in central Washington would be very hot at that time of year so shade would be important.

Hydnsek again noted that it might be challenging to find a host for a campout in central Washington because the Cache-Cadia chapter does not currently have strong membership. Martin 5 suggested that perhaps Derek Fisher (CacheDFish) or other Inland Empire chapter members would be willing to help host. HippyChick1620 asked whether The McMorrrows and sproutter would also be willing to help host, but psykokiwi said they had told her that would be too far away for them.

Hydnsek suggested voting on the general location of the next campout at this meeting and working on further details until the next meeting. She asked for a motion to hold the 2014 Campout in Cache-Cadia chapter with support coming from other chapters. BenandJayme so motioned and Geek&Gopher seconded the motion. The motion carried 10-1 with mc3cats opposed. He explained that he was worried that it would be difficult to find a manager for a campout in Cache-Cadia.

HippyChick1620 said that her family owns a tent and RV resort just south of Grand Coulee Dam. She could call to check on availability there. Hydnsek suggested that she, HippyChick1620, and CacheDFish form a task force to determine the exact campout location and manager and then report back to the full board.

## **Block Party**

### *Report by psykokiwi*

Psykokiwi reported that fewer people stopped by the WSGA booth as the vendor booths were not on the main level with the primary Block Party activities, but on a lower level with the food carts. She said the food trucks didn't help much for visibility, but she'd addressed this with Groundspeak. Otherwise, we did well in sales, and people were happy to see us.

### *Comments*

Several members agreed that this year's booth had been difficult to locate and that better signage by Groundspeak would have been helpful. Hydnsek said she'd heard that most vendors had the same concern that psykokiwi mentioned, and have given that feedback to Groundspeak. Since they have to pay for their booths and are businesses, they are of course more concerned with traffic and sales, so Groundspeak will likely listen. Hydnsek also noted that because the Groundspeak booth and activities had all been upstairs, there was no compelling reason for many people to visit the vendor booths downstairs.

## Going APE

*Report by hydnek*

Our 4th-annual Going APE mega-event on Sunday, Aug. 18, was another big win for WSGA. We have 658 attended logs at present, well over the 500 minimum for a mega-event. Using the standard multiplier of 2.5 for mega attendance, this means we had about 1,600 geocachers!

In comparison, we had around 1,000 attendees in 2012 (the first year it was listed as a mega), and 700 attendees in 2011 (when we gained mega status retroactively). So, we are growing substantially – as was obvious to all, especially the parking crew – thanks in part to Groundspeak now promoting it as part of International Geocaching weekend in their marketing. We got a lot of great Attended logs, as usual, and I think by now everyone's convinced that the loss of the APE cache hasn't diminished the event's appeal. We had tons of global visitors, and even the locals make it an annual outing.

Expenses for this year's APE were \$11,362, a big increase over previous years, mainly due to the event coin and shirts, which we recouped via sales. Income was a whopping \$15,695, so we covered all expenses and made a bit of money. After four years, I think we have the basics down pretty well, and it works well as a "low-key" mega, meaning no vendors, organized activities, raffles, etc. Vendors would mean a more-expensive commercial agreement with the state parks, and the Block Party has vendors on Saturday. We can focus on selling our own stuff, which is allowed by the park.

I've confirmed with Bryan that WSGA plans to continue the APE mega annually, so we are in an official partnership with Groundspeak for this destination weekend, and we'll want to keep up our end of the bargain. We will continue getting a free Block Party booth as part of the deal. I've written and submitted the event page for Going APE 2014 and Groundspeak has signed off on its mega status. Just waiting for it to publish, so we can link with the posted Block Party and folks can mark their calendars.

Some key pluses from this year's event:

- Taking preorders for merchandise this year (the Ape Swag Bag, plus individual coins, shirts, and flashlights) worked really well, and order pickup went pretty smoothly, overseen by Psykokiwi.
- Adding tunnel monitors reduced the problems with tunnel traffic, and no collisions/injuries, concerns about Fen Dweller scaring children, or other incidents were reported this year.
- The event coin and shirt were big hits – rave reviews – and we sold out of shirts (but not coins).
- The pre-event hike to GCD, hosted by GrnXnham, has been a popular addition for the past two years, and Dave and Staci have agreed to continue it in future years.
- All volunteers in every role were just outstanding, and I heard lots of compliments about how wonderful WSGA members were. You all rocked!



A few minuses (due to our success, so okay so long as we don't repeat them):

- We had serious parking congestion in the morning, overrunning the Hyak lot and both Forest Service lots (including the boat ramp lot 0.8 mile away). We need to solve this before next year, whether getting permission to use other lots, or creating a shuttle system.
- We lost \$670 on unsold Discover day passes. Unlike previous years, many WA cachers had one thanks to the GeoTour. Even though I bought fewer this year, it was still too many.
- The loss was magnified by the fact that the parks agreed to give us 20 undated ones so that we could use them later if they weren't sold, but in the rush, someone wrote the date on all of them, rendering them valueless after the event.
- We sold out of NW Forest day passes (unlike last year), and I went and bought another lot, and we sold out of those too. Again, we'll need to address parking issues overall before next year's event.
- We didn't have enough parking staff, and adding folks on-site was too confusing to the crew, so we'll staff up better next year. Victims of our own success.
- The Swag Sales line was long, and we got complaints about how slow it was. We'll also need to evaluate staffing and organization of that next year.
- We sold out of shirts after tripling this year's order. Wowee. We'll also look at that for next year.
- We had a couple of folks on first shift dash off to their posts without getting their event shirts and supplies, which created a little confusion at the start, but resolved.
- I couldn't find anyone to play Sasquatch at the Ape tribute cache, unlike previous years, so folk missed that fun enhancement and photo op.
- We had an equipment bobble at the shift change when tables and canopies started being taken down in the middle of the event at the Refreshments stand, before most of the traffic of returning hikers. Next year, we'll want to reinforce that all equipment loans are for the day, and we can arrange returns afterward if necessary (so folks don't have to stay after their shift).

### *Comments*

There was a wide-ranging discussion about possible improvements for next year's APE event. Suggestions included:

- Better signage at tunnel entrances (NepoKama)
- Swag order sheets like Groundspeak uses at Block Party (HippyChick1620)
- Extra card reader for swag sales (HippyChick1620)
- Increased awareness of presale option (psykokiwi)
- Distinctive t-shirts for volunteers (mc3cats/psykokiwi)
- "Late" preorder sales with fixed content (NepoKama)
- Shuttle to event location (mc3cats/psykokiwi)
- Overflow to ski area parking lots (hydnek)
- Preorders/reservations for potential shuttle or bus (benandjayne)
- Separate parking for bikers (Martin 5)
- Better allocation/identification of handicap parking (psykokiwi/NepoKama)
- Force use of shuttle to make per person cost more manageable (mc3cats)
- Signage to parking from freeway exits (NepoKama)

- Better use of trailer spaces at Hyak (hydnek)
- Establish contingency plan for lost children (Mr. Gadget #2)
- Explore possibility of Labs caches for next year's event (NepoKama)

Hydnek said that all the volunteers had done a great job. She noted that no matter how well organized an event is, there will always be complaints about something. She also mentioned that the four officers would be meeting in a couple weeks to debrief the APE event and further discuss all of the suggestions given.

## **Washington State Park GeoTour**

*Report by hydnek*

The Washington State Parks Centennial GeoTour, a partnership between WSGA and the State Parks, has been successful beyond our wildest dreams! For many cachers, the GeoTour was the focus of their summer geocaching, and we've received tons of feedback - even letters - from folks saying how much they enjoyed it and how it showed them new parks and places they would not have seen otherwise.

As of Sept. 25, we have 29 Gold finishers (100 caches, 32 coins available) and 110 Silver finishers (50 caches, 180 coins available). Despite concerns from some participants that there wouldn't be enough coins, the result was just what we'd hoped - the gold coins for the competitors lasted the summer (we haven't had any gold finishers for nearly a month), and we have plenty of silver coins left (which were the parks' focus).

As of Sept. 17 (3.5 months into the GeoTour, which launched June 7), we had 16,317 finds on the 103 state park GeoTour caches, with 1,416 favorite points among them. Wow! Nearly 2,500 people have found at least one GeoTour cache, and 500+ have found more than 5. Five cachers have found all 103 caches.

The official GeoTour lasts for a year, and the parks challenge will last for 2-3 years, even after the coins are gone. There are two challenge caches that only finishers can log, so there's still incentive to participate. We are also looking at creating a 'badge' people can put on their profile pages for the silver and gold levels. I'm working with Mitch on design, and then the state parks will sign off (they've given the go-ahead). You can get more details on the finishers and statistics in the forum thread on the WSGA site, including the most and least found caches, and most favorited.

We have had ongoing issues with missing stamps, and I've used the extras I bought for this purpose, but we are now almost out, and cache owners will be providing their own replacement stamps in future. An imprint of the replacement stamp is provided to me and Ranger Tina for passport verifications. So far, this has worked well, with caches only being down a few days. Since there are 103 caches to cover downtime, it's worked out pretty well so far.

The State Parks is so happy with the success of the GeoTour that they want to partner with us on more projects in future - perhaps even annually!

## *Comments*

A few board members expressed how much they had enjoyed working on the GeoTour over the summer.

## **Washington State Parks Cache Compliance**

### *Report by hydnek*

As you know, the revised state park geocaching directive has a clause requiring all pre-existing caches to be brought into compliance with the permit process in order to remain in place. I compiled a master list last spring (mostly complete) and there are over 200 non-permitted caches on state park lands!

People claim they were 'grandfathered' but that's not really true. The State Parks didn't specify their removal but asked for them to be permitted, and most folks didn't follow through. So now the parks is mandating it. The State Parks agreed to defer this requirement until after the GeoTour was done, as they didn't have bandwidth and neither did we. Summer is high season for them, and they are short-staffed.

Two weeks ago, the State Parks and I agreed on Dec. 31 as the deadline for all caches to be compliant with the directive. So I will be moving forward with this project in October, and reaching out to many of you and other cachers as well. I have a boilerplate for contacting cache owners, and some chapter reps, like Jerry and Derek, are helping me as well. The strategy, in order of priority: permit, adopt then permit, archive.

### *Comments*

Benandjayme mentioned that toward the end of the last board meeting there was a short discussion about whether the state parks stewardship folks might be willing to share GIS data with geocachers to help educate us on which areas of the parks are off limits to cache placement. He had agreed to follow up on that discussion with stewardship. Before he had a chance to follow up directly with stewardship, he and his wife had a nice in-person discussion about the issue with Ranger Tina. Tina was very receptive to the idea, while also helpful with thoughts about potential problems. She suggested that he send her an email detailing his thoughts and that she would run it up the chain to supervisors and stewardship to see what they thought.

Separately, he had chatted with Jon Stanley (aka Moun10Bike, guru of mapping data) about whether Jon would be willing to help receive/handle any data that was shared. Jon was excited about the possibility of getting better data regarding the parks. He said that even Groundspeak does not currently have good maps for the parks' boundaries, let alone any info on specific zone classifications within the parks. Jon graciously agreed to be part of the discussion going forward.

Benandjayme finally got a detailed email to Tina (and Jon) with his "proposal", the basic upshot of which was that sharing as much data as possible with cachers could help save the parks staff's precious time by reducing permit applications that can't be approved. Tina was able to discuss it with managerial types and Lisa Lantz at stewardship.

Benandjayme was excited to hear back a few weeks ago that stewardship was, indeed, ready and willing to share some GIS data. At that point Jon agreed to take the lead on receiving and processing the data. The great news was that the discussion seemed to be bearing fruit, which should end up with a positive result of some sort. He was going to keep lobbying for as much sharing as possible.

## **Chapter Reports**

### *Olympic Peninsula Chapter report by idajo2*

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter continues to move forward, albeit slowly. The Oly Pen's WSGA Meet'n'Greet in Aberdeen, on September 14th, was a small one – attendance wise – but we had a great time!! Long time geocaching friends from the Seattle area attended - what a pleasant surprise that was! We also had attendees from Scotland attend the event. What enthusiastic geocachers they are – and they were more than willing to share their geocaching experiences, from across The Pond, with the group!

As noted, the OP Chapter has had a “quiet” year thus far; due, in part, to my inability to step into my “movin'n'shakin” boots and forge ahead. I've recovered from the major surgery I underwent in mid-January (again, thank you all for your encouragement and support). I am doing well, but find myself experiencing side-issues that impact my ability to do what needs to be done to light a fire under the Oly Pen geocaching community. I don't see that changing due to three (!) additional major surgeries on my radar in the next year or two.

I am anticipating two more WSGA-hosted events before my final term ends: one in Port Angeles and the other in the Bremerton/Poulsbo/Silverdale area. Once confirmed, I'll be posting locations, dates and times. As noted (numerous times \*smile\*), this will be my final year of involvement as a WSGA Board Member; my hope is that the new Chapter Rep(s) will be full of the energy and enthusiasm that, not only, appeals to members but encourages non-members to join!

### *48 North Chapter report by Grievous Angel (via idajo2)*

We've done quite a bit of outreach/education/community stuff, including setting up and working a table at Cabela's Outdoors Days in May, assisting at a table at the state parks' 100th birthday party at Cama Beach, teaching a geocaching class through Everett Parks and Rec (taught by Johnny Boy, who also assisted them in placing a series of Ranger Rick caches) in June, setting up a table at the Everett Children's Museum family outdoors event (also organized by Johnny Boy) in September and working at another Cabela's event (women in the outdoors) on October 5. The fun thing about this last event is that Ranger Tina volunteered for the WSGA table, then thought it might be cool to come in uniform and got permission from her supervisor to do so. When the Cabela's special event manager heard that Tina was going to come and give out information on the state parks, she got so excited that she asked Tina and a ranger from Larrabee whom Tina had invited to have their own "Women in Uniform" table next to ours.

We've had a number of events--a pizza meet and greet in Bellingham, a family hike to Heather Lake, a meet and greet at the Skookum Brewery in Arlington. Our next event, co-hosted with The Druid Council (jcar and me), will be a Frito pies lunch northwest of Monroe, in "Allanon's Forest," where people can hike and cache before or after they eat.

Members have requested classes/seminars/haven't-decided-yet-what-to-call-them on GSAK and puzzle-solving, so I'm planning those now for this winter. TheWinterTrio has offered to do something on GSAK.

I've decided that a chapter pathtag just isn't necessary when we have a cool-looking WSGA tag available--I hope we'll have the opportunity to order extras for trading!

Hope to see some of you at the Frito pies event on October 6!

#### *Puget Sound Chapter report by mc3cats*

As the PS chapter goes, outside of the August events, I had two things this month. I did an event about two weeks ago in Redmond at the Flying Saucer Pizza place near RTC. A small venue with a small turn out. Had a guy from Vancouver down for the event. Everyone got a raffle prize. Gotta love the small events.

The other non-caching event I did was earlier in Sept in Kirkland. I had a cacher reach out to have a small booth at a neighborhood BBQ at a park in Kirkland. Showed off a bunch of geo caches, showed the GS website and talked up a bunch of muggles about caching. Pretty sure I converted a few!

My next event, not scheduled yet, but will be in November in Greenwood area of Seattle. I will also be working on getting the Holiday Party Venue locked in.

#### *Inland Empire Chapter report by Martin 5*

Due to busy summer schedules we ended up not having an event in August. We, however, have a total of 4 events scheduled in the upcoming month. Three have published and one is still awaiting review:

- DHNA National Public Lands Day 2013, GC4AVG2, Saturday, September 28th.
- CORNy aMAZEing event #2, GC4AVGM, Friday, October 4th.
- IEWSGA Riverside State Park Zombie Walk, GC4AVHX, Friday, October 18th.
- EWSGA Annual Halloween Party, GC4P0F9, Friday, October 25th.

There are two other non-chapter Halloween events planned in our local area in October. One on the 13th in Coeur d'Alene and another on the 26th. The IE Chapter is also excited that our chapter member Lookout Lisa, Owner/CEO of Cache Advance, has opened up a storefront cache cave in Spokane. The exciting part for the chapter is that the new cache cave has room to hold potluck type meet and greet events and Lisa has offered to allow the chapter use of this space.

We currently do not have any events planned for November; however, started an annual Christmas event last year we will likely have again this year.

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

I haven't reported in awhile but in June we had an Ice Cream social and wiped out the local ice cream place. Then in August we had a dinner even and a couple new cachers showed up.

Saturday we will have a potluck. October and November will have helper host events since I will be out for a couple months. But in December we will have our 3rd Christmas event.

#### *Southwest Chapter report by Geek&Gopher*

Battle Ground Lake (196 Finds, 26 Favorites), Beacon Rock (139 Finds, 5 Favorites) and Spring Creek Hatchery (135 Finds, 14 Favorites) caches are all still in place. We did however have to replace the cache container to include passport stamp at Beacon Rock and Battle Ground Lake. We sent Abby & Tina a photo of the new stamps for verification purposes.

We are planning on doing a Fall Event but not sure what it will be and date and time of it as yet. Maybe a puzzle party or night caching event closer to Halloween. Still recovering from campout.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2014 WSGA Geocoin**

Hydnsek reported that because NepoKama created two great designs last year, last year's Board voted to use one for 2013 and one for 2014. So we've already got our basic design for the next coin, which has the Space Needle on one side and Grand Coulee dam on the other - keeping our east/west motif going. She asked the current board members to review the design proposal posted in the forums and offer any feedback there.

#### **Press Coverage**

Hydnsek reported that American Forests magazine is doing a piece on geocaching in their Winter 2014 issue. The magazine had interviewed her and a couple others for it, so the club may get some press in that area soon.

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Meeting was adjourned at 10:11 PM.