

**Washington State Geocaching Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 9th 2010**

Board called to order at 7:24PM, when quorum was met.

In Attendance: hydNSEK, jcar, tolmaus, acfunk, fluteface, MountainShadow, Jester, Ambrosia

Not in Attendance: Bikely&Wifely, lucymogus, derbydancer

Item: Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes from April and June Meetings.

Not complete at the time of the meeting.

Action Items: Minutes will be emailed when complete. jcar and tolmaus have ownership.

Item: Treasurer Report

We are just shy of \$6000 in the bank(Chase and Paypal combined), \$2100 is reserved for chapter allocations and around \$3000 for another order of silver Ape Coins.

We have 1000 cachekinz, and we will have 900 silver ape coins available for sale.

Monies will be set aside for 2011 WSGA Geocoin so it is available at the start of the year, to help spur membership renewal.

No questions on the Chapter Allocation process posted in the Board of Directors forum.

No update on legal status. Plan is to file non-profit status with the Washington State.

Action Items: Final reports for GW/Ape activities, jcar has ownership.

Item: Membership Report

HydNSEK reported that

- WSGA is the largest it's ever been. As of this meeting we have 307 Full and 11 Associate members, for a total of 318 members.
- Our largest chapter continues to be Puget Sound, currently at 159 members, which is just over half the total membership.
- North Olympic Peninsula, which celebrated its first birthday in June, is our second largest chapter!
- 48 North and Inland Empire are also strong.

- Thanks to acfunk's great work, the South Central chapter is growing. In addition Ye Ole Imposter, who runs the GCSEWA, an informal group in SE Washington, has been promoting the WSGA.

As a thank-you to our members, we are sending out a 2010 Member Bonus, which includes a new patch and 2010 WSGA Pathtag, designed by Fluteface. Hydnsek will write a member letter and include the new Benefits handout, which we get asked about regularly. The packages will be mailed out before the end of September.

The monthly Member Newsletter, which began in March 2009 has previously been available to whomever wanted to receive it. The mailing list has grown substantially, as has its perceived value. We reached a cost ceiling, and we needed to either double the budget or reduce the mailings. In a Board email discussion, it was agreed to convert the monthly WSGA Member Newsletter to a member-only benefit, beginning with the September issue, which is similar to how other clubs do their newsletters. Lapsed members will have a 5-month grace period before being dropped. A PDF of each issue will be posted to the website.

Item: GeoWoodstock wrapup

General consensus of those that posted, GWVIII was great and the COWWS did an outstanding job, as did WSGA.

WSGA did the following:

- Silver Sponsor
 - Going Ape Event. The largest and most Ambitious WSGA Event ever - nearly 500 attendees.
 - On the Road Events in Waterville and Everett.
 - 4th of July Events in Renton and Wenatchee.
 - Booth at GW.
 - Full debrief is available in the August Newsletter
 - Thanks to all the volunteers, without whom none of this would have been possible.
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Item: WSGA Cache Recommendations section

New section on the WSGA site. Broken down by WSGA Chapters. Highlight caches in each chapter. Links from the WSGA site take you to geocaching.com bookmark lists. Will be a useful tool for in-state cachers and those visiting. Semi-annual review and cleanup will be performed on the lists.

Thanks to jcar, hydnsek, Lizzy, all the chapter reps and many of our members who emailed recommendations.

Ambrosia noted that her list that was submitted didn't seem to have made it on to the bookmark list. Jcar said he would check on this.

Item: 2010 Campout

Acfunk reported:

WSGA 2010 Campout was held at Cascade Peaks Resort near Packwood, WA on August 13-15. There were a total of 27 tent campsites and 10 RV campsites that were occupied. The total number of people that attended the Saturday night BBQ was 115.

From comments received during the event, a good time was had by all attendees. A few minor glitches along the way including flooded bathrooms and falling tree limbs. The campground management was very easy to work with and helped us work out any minor problems during the weekend. The central area for the group activities worked out very well for the marshmallow roast, BBQ and Sunday breakfast. We couldn't have found a more cooperative campground.

Financial summary:

Expenses = \$2,124.26

Registration = \$2,606.00

Expenses included:

Campground = \$1,585.15

Goodie Bags = \$300

Miscellaneous (PayPal fee, prizes, etc.) = \$239.11

Jcar mentioned:

It was not our goal to make or lose money. Because Cascade Peaks let us add tent campers without charging us extra we ended up ahead.

Thanks to Acfunk for taking charge and managing the 2010 Campout.

Item: 2011 Campout

In an email discussion, HydNSEK proposed, and the Board agreed, to creation of an ongoing Campout Planning Committee which will make recommendations each year to the Board for the next campout, and then support the chosen host as needed with advice, etc. Members will include the treasurer and previous campout hosts. Acfunk agreed to chair the committee, and initial members include jcar (treasurer) and lucymogus (representing IE Chapter, next year's hosts). Right Wing Wacko, who helped host several previous Campouts, has been asked to join, as well.

Going forward, Campout dates will be the first weekend in August to avoid conflicts with other events, including GeoLuau.

QuadsintheMudd of Inland Empire volunteered to host the 2011 Campout and proposed Chief Timothy Park in Asotin County. Planned for August 5th - 7th 2011.

Action Item: The Campout Planning Committee will meet and review the proposal, provide feedback as needed, and make a recommendation for the Board to vote on at the October Board meeting.

Item: Geocoin(s)

- WSGA 2010 Geocoin. Jcar reported that we had sold over 750 coins, we have 178 regular left and a handful of member coins. Sales continue to trickle in, online and through events. 100 were sold just at the Ape Event. A large portion of the remaining coins will be passed on to the Chapters for give-aways with the swag boxes.

- Hydnek reported that the Board agreed to shift coin creation to the fall, so that coins are ready at the beginning of the following year to help with membership renewal.

- WSGA 2011 Geocoin. Fluteface will continue as coin manager and will open up the 2011 WSGA coin to any and all for the basic design phase. Board will select the one they like best. Our logo has to be part of one of the sides. Creator will get the fame and a coin or two. Disclaimer to designers that there is a possibility that the coin would never be produced. Timeframe would have the coin available for sale at the end of January. Jcar reported that there should be funds available for this based on interest of the Silver Ape coin; if not, production might need to slide to early next year.

- Ape Coins. 500 limited-edition gold coins were minted for GeoWoodstock, with 200 more made for GeoWoodstock Volunteers. 900 (400 + 500 reorder) silver Regular edition are now available along with 1000 cachekinz.

Item: WSGA merchandise.

jcar reported the following

- Long and short sleeve shirts are still available from the order placed a couple of years ago. Certain sizes are limited.

- Pens are still available and there will some placed in each swag package going out to each chapter.

- Small amount of lanyards, bottle holders, and stickers.

- Swag for the chapters should be going out soon, if you do not have them by early October let me know. They will include WSGA coins, Ape Cachekinz, WSGA Cap, WSGA Shirt and a selection of the other items we currently have on hand.

Item: Parks Advocacy

hydnek reported the following:

- North Cascades National Park. Approved the first two physical cache placements. These are the first NPS placements in the western U.S.

- Washington State Parks. Kathy Hale is the designated geocaching representative for the parks. Hydnek chatted with her and will work with her to try to streamline the approval process for WSP units. Many find the process cumbersome, earthcaches can even be an issue getting approved and it varies from unit to unit.

- Kitsap County Parks. Hydnek gave a geocaching presentation to their staff and volunteers in July, assisted by Jomer & Traci, their liaisons. Kitsap received a grant to place environmentally themed caches, and they are enthusiastic. J&T will be helping them.

- Seattle. Formal process in place for cache submissions for Discovery Park. Posted in the WSGA Forums. Rodgowdy continues as their liaison, and Groundspeak reviewers are aware of the new process.

- Richland. Richland City Parks is the first Eastern WA park system to join our Liaison Program, Meandbrea is their liaison, and also park staff.

- Bellevue. Hydnek met with Bellevue City Parks on their proposed geocaching guidelines. Based on the discussion, they have revised their

guidelines significantly, and an updated draft was received today. The updated draft is more in line with other city/county parks, as compared to the severe restrictions/ban they were considering. It took a year of discussions to get to this point. Status of Mercer Slough is still unresolved.

Hydnsek mentioned a possible new Board meeting format, which will be followed up on offline.

Motion to table New Business until the next Board meeting by hydnek, so motioned by acfunk, second by The Jester. Eight aye, no nay votes, motion carried at 9:47PM

Motion to adjourned at 9:49PM by hydnek, so motioned by acfunk, seconded by fluteface. Six aye, no nay votes, meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Next meeting Thursday October 28th at 7:00PM.