

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting

26 July 2017

Sproutter called WSGA's 26 July 2017 Business Meeting order at 6:30pm.

Board Members in attendance: Broncos Fan 4Life (Chandra Day), FenchurchE (Fen Eatough), GeekandGopher (Ray/Brenda Harrison), Mr. Gadget #2 (Gene Reed), Rambudo (Russell Brendel), SirKarp (Rob Norenberg), Sproutter (Seth Dedmon)

Also in Attendance: AndrewRJ (Andrew Johnson), jtcoffee (Jessie Maxwell), Mc3cats (Chris Brue), NepoKama (Mitch Eatough), NWStinkerbella, PeachandPete (Annette Bailes)

Proxies: Mr. Gadget #2 for Martin 5

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

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from 17 May 2017 were approved unanimously

Comments: None

Financial Report

Report by Broncos Fan 4 Life

January 1, 2017 starting balance: \$10,161.24

Income:

- Sales: \$163.70
- Membership: \$1,088.00
- **Total: \$1,251.70**

Expenses:

- PayPal Fees: \$32.21
- USPS: \$430.41
- Supplies: \$148.16
- Dues/Licenses: \$32.66 (Groundspeak Renewal)

- **Total (\$643.44)**

January 31, 2017 ending balance: \$10,769.50 (\$608.26 increase)

February 1, 2017 starting balance: \$10,769.50

Income:

- Membership: \$493.00
- **Total: \$493.00**

Expenses:

- PayPal Fees: \$25.54
- USPS: \$227.15
- Internet: \$479.40 (Go Daddy.com fees)
- **Total (\$732.09)**

February 28, 2017 ending balance: \$10,530.41 (\$239.09 decrease)

March 1, 2017 starting balance: \$10,530.41

Income:

- Membership: \$379.00
- Merch Sales: \$7.15
- Misc: \$500.00 (refund from Maple Valley CC)
- **Total: \$886.15**

Expenses:

- WA State Annual Filing Fee: \$10.00
- APE: \$1333.40
- Chapter Allocation: \$33.37
- USPS: \$440.77
- PayPal Fees: \$15.88
- Office Supplies: \$93.06
- Internet: \$21.92
- **Total (\$1948.40)**

March 30, 2017 ending balance: \$9,468.16 (\$1,062.25 decrease)

April 1, 2017 starting balance: \$9,468.16

Income:

- Membership: \$91.50
- Merch Sales: \$78.05
- **Total: \$169.55**

Expenses:

- Campout: \$770.00
- APE: \$64.27
- Chapter Allocation: \$127.32
- USPS: \$29.08
- PayPal Fees: \$8.32
- **Total (\$998.99)**

*April 30, 2017 ending balance: \$8,638.72 (\$829.44
decrease)*

May 1, 2017 starting balance: \$8,638.72

Income:

- Membership: \$28.00
- Merch Sales: \$200.45
- APE Sales: \$10,461.15
- Misc: \$19.47 (credit refund – uncashed disbursement)
- **Total: \$10,709.07**

Expenses:

- Campout: \$54.00 (pathtags)
- APE: \$250.00
- Chapter Allocation: \$663.29 • USPS: \$50.11
- PayPal/Stripe Fees: \$567.42
- **Total (\$1,584.82)**

*May 31, 2017 ending balance: \$17,762.97 (\$9,124.25
increase)*

June 1, 2017 starting balance: \$17,762.97

Income:

- Membership: \$91.00
- Merch Sales: \$13.50
- APE Sales: \$3169.55
- **Total: \$3274.05**

Expenses:

- Ofc Supplies: \$142.00 (card processors for stripe)
- APE: \$6013.25
- Merch Orders: \$1768.00 (2017 WSGA Coins)
- Misc: 278.23 (\$100 SC CITO/178.23 WSGA Banners)
- Chapter Allocation: \$84.38
- USPS: \$24.69
- PayPal/Stripe Fees: \$181.40
- **Total (\$1,584.82)**

June 30, 2017 ending balance: \$12,545.07 (\$5,217.90 decrease)

July 1, 2017 starting balance: \$12,545.07 - Through 7/23/17

Income:

- Merch Sales: \$172.50
- APE Sales: \$2598.50
- **Total: \$2770.55**

Expenses:

- Campout: \$271.44
- APE: \$5815.60
- Misc: \$300.00 (CPA fees)
- USPS: \$13.90
- **Total (\$6,400.94)**

July 23, 2017 ending balance: \$8,914.68 (\$3,630.39 decrease)

Chapter Allocations

	Puget Sound South Central	Olympic 48 North	Cache-Cadia	Inland Empire	Southwest	Peninsula	
2017 Start Total	\$637.50	\$256.50	\$157.00	\$168.50	\$281.50	\$185.50	\$170.00
March Additional Funds	\$119.00	\$22.00	\$35.00	\$41.50	\$23.00	\$0.00	\$55.50

May Additional Funds	\$128.00	\$32.50	\$22.00	\$6.50	\$84.00	\$0.00	\$41.50
July Additonal Funds	\$37.50	\$6.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24.50	\$9.00	\$15.50
Used	\$703.74	\$40.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$163.72	\$0.00	\$0.00
Remaining Funds	\$180.76	\$270.10	\$214.00	\$216.50	\$224.78	\$185.50	\$267.00

APE BREAKDOWN

2017 APE	Merch Sales	TOTAL	Notes
			Income
January		\$0.00	
February		\$0.00	
March		\$0.00	Pre-Sales begin
April		\$0.00	
May	\$10,461.15	\$10,461.15	
June	\$3,169.55	\$3,169.55	
July	\$2,598.50	\$2,598.50	
August		\$0.00	
September		\$0.00	
October		\$0.00	
November		\$0.00	
December		\$0.00	
TOTALS	\$16,229.20	\$16,229.20	

2017 APE Expenses

[illegible]

December									\$0.00
TOTALS	\$0.00	\$574.24	\$3,910.12	\$7,257.14	\$458.40	\$0.00	\$775.00	\$271.95	\$13,246.85

Notes:

April: 29.27 Order samples of satchels

May: 250 deposit for Torguson Park Event

June: 163.05 -Spot the Ape tags

July: 572.15 – Passports

August: 914.85 - Signage 231-Friday night event

Bag Breakdowns	Cost	Chimp	Silverback	Great APE
Passport	\$0.52	X	X	X
Messenger Bag	\$5.24	X	X	X
Tattoos	\$0.07	X	X	X
LED Flashlight	\$2.12	X	X	X
Pen	\$0.40	X	X	X
Regular Coin	\$3.53	X	X	X
Premium Coin	\$3.53		X	X
VIP Coin	\$3.53			X
3 APE Pins	\$2.94		X	X
2017 WSGA Coin	\$6.50			X
Trackable Tag	\$3.00		X	X
T-Shirt	\$6.47	X	X	
Glow Stick	free	X	X	X
Snacks/Water	\$0.98	X	X	X
Trackable T-Shirt	\$14.65			X
Cost				
Total		\$19.33	\$28.80	\$47.01
Sales				
Price		\$30.00	\$45.00	\$75.00
Net \$		\$10.67	\$16.20	\$27.99

Updated: 7/24/17							
WSGA BUDGET & HISTORY	2015 Proposed	2015 Actual	2016 Proposed	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actuals	2017 Variance
INCOME							
Membership	\$5,000.00	\$4,022.00	\$4,600.00	\$3,040.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,170.50	-\$1,329.50
Merchandise Sales	\$5,500.00	\$6,245.00	\$5,500.00	\$8,580.57	\$5,000.00	\$634.90	-\$4,365.10
Campout	\$2,500.00	\$2,147.00	\$2,200.00	\$223.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	-\$1,500.00
Ape Weekend	\$15,000.00	\$25,144.78	\$9,000.00	\$8,215.32	\$9,000.00	\$16,229.20	\$7,229.20
Miscellaneous					\$0.00	\$519.47	\$519.47

Fundraisers	\$300.00	\$123.03	\$250.00	\$333.21	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$28,300.00	\$37,681.81	\$21,550.00	\$20,392.10	\$19,000.00	\$19,554.07	\$554.07
EXPENSES							
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$718.54	\$750.00	\$343.36	\$1,000.00	\$1,216.11	\$216.11
Internet	\$2,000.00	\$181.51	\$1,500.00	\$727.97	\$500.00	\$501.32	\$1.32
Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$385.64	\$500.00	\$197.73	\$300.00	\$383.22	\$83.22
Dues/fees	\$50.00	\$57.73	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$42.66	-\$7.34
PayPal/Stripe fees	\$800.00	\$1,020.14	\$800.00	\$574.21	\$800.00	\$830.77	\$30.77
Chapter Allocations	\$2,900.00	\$2,622.09	\$2,900.00	\$4,135.32	\$3,200.00	\$908.36	-\$2,291.64
Campout	\$3,000.00	\$1,067.95	\$2,600.00	\$1,634.80	\$1,500.00	\$1,095.44	-\$404.56
Ape Weekend	\$10,000.00	\$17,716.03	\$6,000.00	\$9,805.42	\$8,000.00	\$13,476.52	\$5,476.52
APE Promotion							
WSGA coin/tb's	\$3,200.00	\$1,095.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,796.43	\$3,000.00	\$1,768.00	-\$1,232.00
Merchandise	\$3,500.00	\$340.50	\$3,000.00	\$1,196.52	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	-\$1,500.00
Small Grant Program	\$2,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	-\$700.00
Sponsorships	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	-\$900.00
Outreach	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
Park Liasion	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
GeoTour	\$750.00	\$39.90	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NW Trails	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
projectors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
GPS units	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$177.50	\$150.00	\$328.50	\$100.00	\$478.23	\$378.23
Total Expenses	\$30,400.00	\$27,322.53	\$23,750.00	\$21,760.26	\$21,850.00	\$20,800.63	-\$1,049.37
Net Budget	(\$2,100.00)	\$10,359.28	(\$2,200.00)	(\$1,368.16)	(\$2,850.00)	(\$1,246.56)	\$1,603.44

Comments: None

Membership Report

Report by Broncos Fan 4 Life

Membership Summary – 2017

Updated: 7/6/17
Chapters

Accounts				TOTALS		Total New Accounts YTD
Individual	Family	Assoc-Individual	Assoc-Family	Accounts	Members	

Puget Sound	55	47	1	0	9	1	103	184	13
48 North	16		0				26	44	1
Inland Empire	19	15		3		0	37	56	8
South Central	13	7		0		0	20	30	5
Olympic Peninsula	8	3		0		0	11	16	0
Southwest	3	3		1		0	7	14	0
Cache-Cadia	7	4		0		0	11	15	0
Unaffiliated	0	0		2		0	2	2	0
CURRENT TOTALS	121	88		8		0	217	361	27
	121	87		8		0	216		(July 6 2017)
LAST REPORTED Net Gains	0	1		0		0			

Comments: There was discussion on when the Membership signup would be up and running on the new website. The website committee reported that they are working on it and hope to have it online soon.

Ape Mega-Event

Report by AndrewRJ

Our 8th-annual Going APE mega-event is three weeks away, and we are in high gear, all systems go! There are currently 537 Will Attend logs which is in line with three years ago.

- Volunteers: We are actively recruiting volunteers for all areas, and have all but a few slots filled esp. on parking. This is always the hardest area as it requires quite a few areas and few people want to work by themselves. Despite needing the VIP line, I have not added extra people to that area as we will be having the pre-event distribution event which should reduce the need. I will talk to Lisa and let her decide if she needs more.
- Equipment: We still need to put the word out to get tables and canopies. We have a few people pre-volunteering their equipment
- Swag Bag: Preorders opened in mid-June, closed July 7 and we sold 277 (100 VIP / 104 Silverback / 73 Chimp).
- Swag orders: As far as I am aware everything has been ordered and the last pieces will arrive around Aug 11.
- Swag Bag stuffing: We need to get the SWAG bag stuffing party scheduled. This will get all our preordered Swag Bags ready for pickup at the event. This will also be the final crew chief meeting before the Big Day.
- Event coin: A great design again this year – with a proxy tag! – and the coin here. We ordered Regular Coins: 321 Premium Coins: 204 VIP Coins: 100
- Event shirt: Ordered

- **Parking:** Parking will be using the plan from 2 years ago as we are expecting many attendees this year. Ranger Keith is going to let us park additional cars along the trail at Hyak (next to the event venue). We have approval to use a ski lot at the Nordic Center – free! – for our overflow lot. And it's just a short walk to Hyak, closer than the Forest Service lot. We will have parking attendants there to ensure that we are respecting the area and to direct folks to the trail to Hyak, and we must do a trash sweep after the event. We may have to use the upper lot as well. We need to purchase 100 Discover day passes (Hyak) and already have the NWF day passes (Forest Service lot).
- **Portapotties:** We are continuing to use Spiffy Biffy this year. The price will be about \$600 and we've got a confirmed order for four toilets. (Background: State Parks requires us to provide additional toilets due to the large crowd at our event. One will be on the west side.)
- **Lab caches:** Mc3cats is working on the prep for the Ape Adventures, which will only be live the day of the event, although folks will have a week to log them. I have heard that the Lab Caches are going to be in/towards North Bend this year?
- **Caches:** The Ape Cache is being replaced with the original container. Appropriate meetings have been occurring between GS and the parks and a plan is in place and is tentatively planned for replacement the week before the event. An email will be sent to one of the reviewers to disable Curious Joes cache at the entrance of the park.
- **Spot the Ape:** I personally have nothing to do with this but it seems to be going very well.

Comments: We received permission to take a small vehicle through the tunnel and Mr. Gadget #2 volunteered his small utility vehicle for service as well as offering to drive. This will be useful in getting gear from one end to the other, as well as transporting those with disabilities or in case of emergency.

Broncos Fan 4 Life reports that Geocaching HQ has received permission to place the original APE container back in its old spot in the State Park. They are working with the park ranger on the exact date it will be replaced and how to secure it with the hopes that it doesn't go missing again. Geocaching HQ is aware of the event and they have assured her that the APE container will be an active cache on August 19th.

Jtcoffee reports that the Spot the APE tags are being published at approximately 4/day, and will be posted up to the week before the event. People are **very** excited and committed to this game, and it's going very well (tags being found, creating excitement for the event, etc.)

Outreach

Report by Mc3cats

The following are outreach events that took place since the last meeting:

Recent Outreach Activities:

On June 10th the WSGA participated in the Get Outdoors Expo that the WSPF puts on every year. This year it was held at Lake Sammamish State Park. They had a bigger turn out this year than in past years which has a lot to do with where the event was this year. The WSGA booth was buzzin pretty much the whole time we were there. We sponsored a lab adventure during the event which quite a few folks did. I had a fantastic group of volunteers helping me out this year which included names you will be familiar with. Broncos Fan 4 Life, Sproutter, FenchurchE and NepoKama. Thank you all for volunteering

GPS Usage Report:

No requests since the last board meeting.

Upcoming Outreach Requests:

We have recently received a flurry of outreach requests. Two of which have been funneled through Martin5 out in the Inland Empire chapter to run with. One is in Spokane, while the other is in CDA.

The most recent request, however, came out of the June 10th WSPF Expo at Lake Sammamish State Park. The Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park group attended the expo and visited our booth. They asked us if we would be interested in putting on a geocaching class for their group something in the future. Of course, we said "Yes". So, they contacted us this week saying they are having their "Camp S'more" event at Lake Sammamish on Saturday August 5th and would like to do a geocaching class. Since I will be out of state that week, I have asked for volunteers to assist with this outreach request. Chandra (Broncos Fan 4 Life) has answered the volunteer call once again! She may be look for additional volunteers. If anyone is willing to help her out, I am sure she will be glad to have the help. Thank Chandra for taking the lead on this request.

That's all I have.

Comments: None

Parks Liaison

Report by PeachandPete

I am pleased to report that Park Liaison issues continue to be very low-key or have not been conveyed to me. If any of you hear of any issues with Parks that have assigned liaisons or those with no current liaison, please let me know so we can work together to investigate and help solve any issues that arise. There are no new appointments for any Park Liaison that I am aware of.

Again, please let me know if you hear of any problems with any of the Parks as it relates to WSGA and geocaching, or if you have ideas for the Parks Liaison area of WSGA.

Comments: PeachandPete mentioned that they will be contacting the park liaisons with a reminder to make an effort to touch base with their assigned parks departments at least once a year.

Social Media

Report by jtcoffee

Overview

- Joy! Agony! Victory! Defeat! All of these emotions and more are poured out onto WSGA's social media pages this summer with the Spot the APE game currently underway.
- All social media outlets are all APE, all the time between the Tag game, the Mega, and the prefunc Events.
- On the horizon: we should think about ways to capitalize on this following and energy toward game play in other times of the year. Photo contests? Challenges? Drawings?
- If you participate in any of the following social media platforms, please engage by following, liking, etc. Nothing draws a crowd like a crowd!

Facebook

- See the graphics below:

Results from Jun 20, 2017 - Jul 17, 2017

Note: Does not include today's data. Insights activity is reported in the Pacific time zone. Ads activity is reported in the time zone of your ad account.

Organic Paid

Actions on Page

June 20 - July 17

23

Total Actions on Page ▲130%



Page Views

June 20 - July 17

1,836

Total Page Views ▲1,141%



Page Previews

June 20 - July 17

248

Page Previews ▲505%



Page Likes

June 20 - July 17

69

Page Likes ▲109%



Reach

June 20 - July 17

8,735

People Reached ▲212%



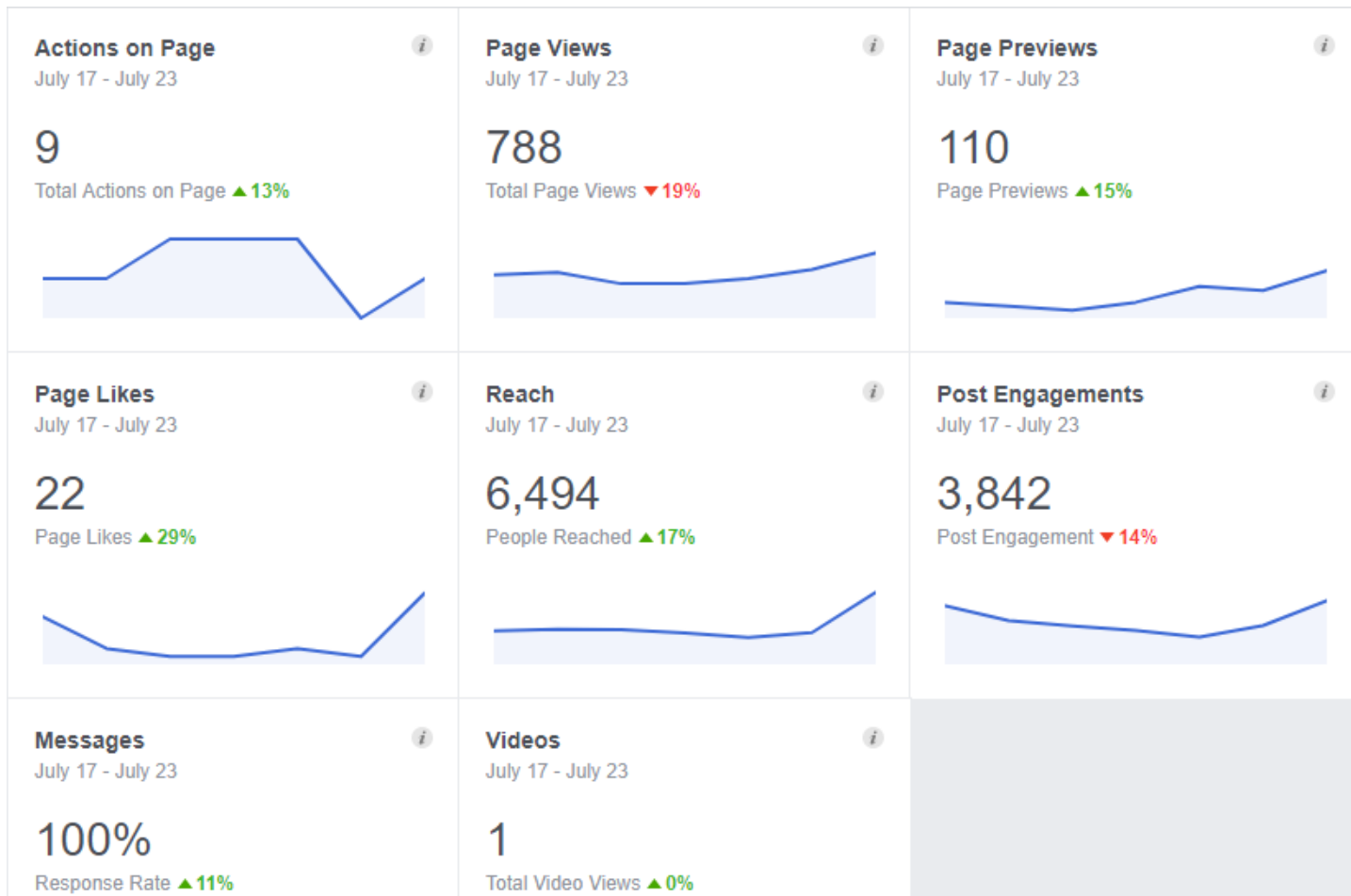
Post Engagements

June 20 - July 17

8,988

Post Engagement ▲729%





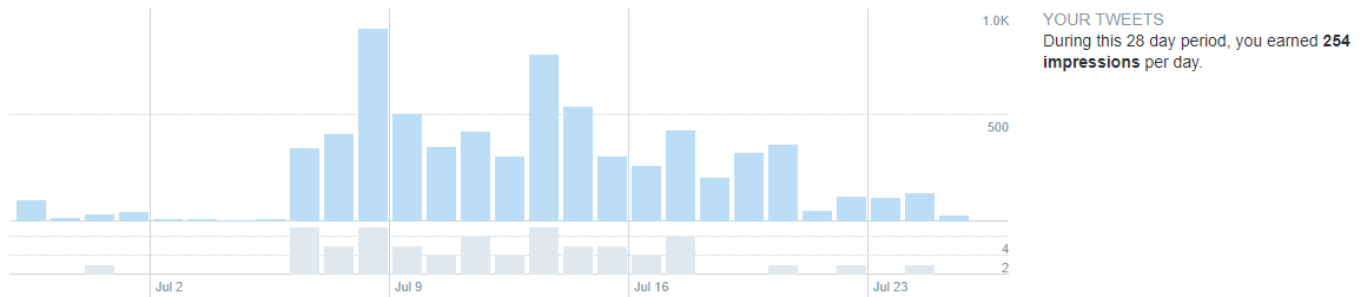
- It is clear when the Spot the Ape tag game began, based on these graphs! A few things can be deduced from these charts:
 - People are very connected and engaged with the tag game; they “like” posts, they view each post, they comment, they share, they connect by following the page. And they’re competitive 😊
 - We are seeing increases on all social media platforms, but facebook is largely the hub, which indicates this is mainly where our audience is.
- Currently 1,672 followers, gaining 20 this **week**.

Twitter

- Most popular tweets are connected to our facebook feed, posts of pictures with cachers, and posts during US Geocaching Hour.
- Currently 108 followers, gaining 17 this month.

- Spot the Ape has provided a large jump in engagement:

Your Tweets earned **7.1K impressions** over this **28 day** period



- The first dramatic jump is when we started publishing the tags. Despite a small decline as the game progresses, this does indicate that people check our Twitter feed daily and click on links on our posts.
- For comparison, June 2017 had 1.1k impressions. July 2016 had 6.1K impressions

Instagram

- Approximately gaining 5 followers a week (currently 132 followers. 50 in January)
- Pictures of the Spot the Ape spots are somewhat popular, but more popular are beautiful scenes and interesting caches.

Snapchat

- Hoping to build a base and have filters ready for the Going Ape event.

Comments: Major kudos to jtcoffee for the wonderful work she's been doing with social media! We also now have an email address specifically for social media issues: socialmedia@wsgaonline.org

Website Committee

Report by NepoKama

The new site is shaping up, many thanks to Russell and Ray for all their efforts. The old site is online at <http://old.wsgaonline.org> for retrieval of data. We had to rush the switchover due to GoDaddy hosing the old site, which has meant a rougher transition than I'd hoped, but we're making it work. If there are links to the old site you used that don't go anywhere on the new site let us know as well and we will fix them.

Comments: None

CHAPTER REPORTS

Cache-Cadia Chapter Report by Mr. Gadget #2

During June and July there were four different events held across the chapter area. June 11, 2017 All41 hosted a picnic at River Side Park in Cashmere and rafting trip on the Wenatchee River. There were some lackeys who made it over for other rafting trip. 10 cachers did log attended and several guest attended.

We had two events honoring Canada 150th birthday. One was held in Pateros "Its Canada's day A", and the other in Ellensburg "The Canadian Iron Horse" by geowarcats. There were 11 and 8 respectfully attended each event.

On July 16, 2017 Ambrosia hosted Captain Cache-cadian & Mary Hyde event. Twelve cachers have logged into that event.

I have been discussing with various members within the chapter we need to begin planning for the 2018 WSGA camp out. It is about our turn to host the event. In the planning stages we will need some guidance for the activities and preparation to host the event. (hint hint, need help)

A few have suggested having it at Wenatchee Confluence State Park. This would be a convenient location close to town, closed to a large mass of caches along the Apple Loop Trail which runs along both sides of the Columbia River in Chelan and Douglas County which is a 10-11 mile loop, an extension trail South to Hydro Park/ Baseball fields for another 3-4 miles, and then a 5-6 mile extension trail all the way North to Lincoln Rock State Park on the Douglas County side of the river. A great bike trail or if not a biker go for a nice long walk or run.

48 North Chapter Report by Rambudo

The WSGA Summer Campout hosted by 48 North was a great success despite the late start in planning. I would like to thank SirKarp and Princess Trouble for all the work they did to help make it a success. I hope that we can get a Summer Campout Coordinator in place for the campout in 2018. Having a dedicated coordinator in the host chapter that is not connected to Chapter Rep will help with planning as the Chapter Rep has the possibility of being replaced with the elections each year.

I have started the planning for 2 chapter events in September. 1st up will be an end of summer cookout in the Bellingham area. 2nd will be a meet and greet in Mountlake Terrace.

I have also started plans for the chapter's holiday party.

I have had several people reach out to me with regards to joining the WSGA. They are unable to because the website had no information about joining. As part of the website committee, I was able to post a page to the website directing them to our PO Box. It is better than nothing, but we need to get the tools in place to join/renew membership through the website.

I recently went to a meeting by the Snohomish County Parks and Rec. They are in the early stages to update one park in particular and they want geocaching to be a part of their plan. This particular park is currently part of our Park Liaison Program, but the staff seemed unaware

of that program. As the Park Liaison Program report explains, there is not much activity within the program. I wonder if it is too little activity.

Southwest Chapter Report by Geek&Gopher

New Business:

- Ray is continuing to work on the Website Committee.

Past Chapter Events:

7/23/17 – Battle Ground, WA

Geocaching 101 – An Introduction to Geocaching (GC7845V)

Hosted by (mtribe and verano)

Battle Ground Community Library, Conference Room

1207 SE 8th Way

Battle Ground, WA

10:00AM – 12:00PM

Upcoming Chapter Events:

9/9/17 – Battle Ground, WA

Geocaching 101 – An Introduction to Geocaching (GC7845V)

Hosted by (mtribe and verano)

Three Creeks Library Conference Room

800 NE Tenney Rd

Vancouver, WA

10:30AM – 12:30PM

9/17/17 – Chinook, WA

Work Release CITO -- Cache Dash Splash III (GC73TQF)

Chinook County Park

11 Chinook Park Rd

Chinook, WA 98614

10:00AM – 11:00AM

11/4/17 – Vancouver, WA

Luke Jensen Sports Park in the Bud Van Cleve Community Room

4000 NE 78th Ave

Vancouver, WA 98665

1:00PM – 3:00PM

2017 GIFF Film Screening

Upcoming Area Events

September 15-17, 2017

Cache Dash Splash III – Behind Bars (GC7845K)

Chinook County Park

11 Chinook Park Rd

Chinook, WA 98614

Chapter Representatives – Effective March 31, 2018 we will be stepping down as the Chapter Representatives for the Southwest Chapter. We have been the Representatives for a total of 4 ½ years over (2) terms.

South Central Chapter by Tumbleweedpirates

Since our last meeting in May we hosted Free State Park Day and discussed Geocaching with about 150 folks at the park. We had a local event for the German sausage souvenir. Another cacher hosted the event on July 1 for Canadian day. On our Mega weekend I hosted the Lab cache and Poker run event where we had about 85 logs. WSGA, Crystal, Julie and I hosted the

CITO event the day after the Tri-City Mega event and we had about the same amount of logs. We also had about 160 logs for our Friday Night Meet and Greet and about 400 logs for our Mega. I am sure most of you know by doubling you log numbers that will give you your total attendees for Mega's and most other events. For the Mega we keep a sign in log that also supports many more than 500 attended. Of course I am only talking about, Attended" logs.

During the Saturday event before drawings we had a low point and I hosted a talk with three other cachers I could find real fast. It was very impromptu but apparently very informative. We had lots of positive feedback. I think WSGA should encourage Reviewers to do the same at Megas. I tried it a couple years ago with nine of them and got a negative response from all. I have been told our Northwest reviewers are very stand offish. Many events across the world have reviewers hosting a question and answer period to help future hiders. I've had this discussion with people from all over the world year each year at the Tri City Mega event and I don't start the conversation either. I think WSGA needs to break the secretiveness that goes with being a "Reviewer" and help them create more public comment periods so we create more Geocache hides. I feel this communication link would really help our hobby regionally.

It was a super event with a ton of positive logs and a super cool tee-shirt.

Usually we all retreat and don't meet for a month or two but we have already had a post Mega private event to get ready for next year. One lesson learned is that we are going into coin design starting next month and not January.

Puget Sound Chapter Report by SirKarp

This has been another very busy period for the Puget Sound chapter, not so much with holding events this time, but with assisting to put the summer campout together.

Events Held:

The 2017 It's almost Summer Picnic was held on Saturday June 3rd 2017, at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, at the Fort Nisqually Picnic shelter. We had 34 posted attends and a nice sunny day for us. The theme was mythological zoo this year and we had little game going where folks went out and found pictures of the mythical zoo animals and took coordinates. Those with the closest cords received a certificate and a prize. We also held a camo contest where attendees brought in camo'd containers and the attendees voted on the best camo job. The winner received a ammo box loaded with goodies. As is normal for the picnic we also had a potluck with WSGA providing hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages. We held general raffle, an early bird drawing and WSGA members drawing as well.

Up and coming events:

There are so many great events held in the Puget sound region and for that matter the state during the summer we haven't planned any events for the summer.

It's way too early to publish but the next Nightmare in Preston Halloween event planning is well under way. For the first time ever we are going to repeat last year's theme, of carnevil which I am really looking forward to as this means we get to refine it and improve it. It will be on October 28th and as with the previous 2 years the hall is going to let us have the day before and after for setup and tear down. We are also planning another NIP cache series for this year as it was so popular last year. If anyone wants to come help us decorate, take it all down or even better do a haunted space of their own to thrill and scare cachers please let me know.

I was also approached by a local cacher Kirkgirls about holding a puzzle class event. The proposed date for the class would be either November or mid-winter. It is definitely still an event in the initial planning stages at this time.

Summer Campout:

As you're all aware the summer campout was held July 16th, 17th and 18th this year. As most of you are also aware I played a big roll in putting this years event together after initial plans fell though. In the end the summer campout went very, very well. I think and especially considering that the campout was Sunday through Tuesday that the attendance was very good. We held the traditional potluck dinner and presidential address on Sunday night so that folks not camping could come for that. Monday we had a northwest animal / GPS accuracy game. We placed 10 pictures of northwest animals in or near the loop we were camping in. Folks that played the game had to locate the 10 animals, take coordinates write them down on a sheet of paper and turn it in. The person with the most number of correct coordinates won an ammo box ready to go as a cache container. That afternoon we held a camo class, where I taught attendees one technique for camoing cache containers. Monday evening Rambudo, 48 North Chapter Rep, put together a temporary night cache. The night cache was very well put together and folks seemed to have a fun time seeking it out. Tuesday morning we ended the activities with a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and other treats. All and all I would say that this years campout went very well and I was glad to see folks turn out and enjoy the event.

There's also a very folks that helped out with the campout that I would like to thank, Peach & Pete for running welcome, bringing one of the grills to cook on and being there when needed. I'd like to thank Princess Trouble for doing the event shopping and bringing it all up to the campground as well as helping us coordinate things before the event. Thanks to Rambudo for setting up the Monday night-cache which was really well done. Thanks to Forest Fans for helping with clean up and take down Tuesday morning, from cleaning and picking up in the shelter to collecting up the pieces from the animal game. I'd like to thank Blooming Idiot for helping with clean up on Tuesday morning and offering to help out with the cooking of the Tuesday morning breakfast. Finally I'd like to thank Nw Stinkerbella, for putting together the cache list for the group and for being there helping me each and every step of the way from the very beginning to each and every aspect that we had a part in Thank you.

Campout looking forward:

I think that in order for the campout to continue to be successful we NEED to find a campout manager. Someone that is able to dedicate the amount of time that is needed to plan an event of this nature. I'd also like to point out to everyone that the old WSGA website is back online at

old.wsgaonline.org. In the forums under campout planning, the first thread at the top contains the campout planning guide. If your chapter is going to be hosting the campout next year (I think it's IE turn) it would be wise since we do not currently have a campout manager, for the chapter rep to read that over and then secure a place for the 2018 campout THIS summer or early fall at the latest. I know that the campout is not just the chapter reps responsibility but without a campout manager someone will have to do it. Someone that knows the area, and can check out parks potential locations. I did a lot of the planning this year, picked the location, created and ran some of the activities. I will not be the one picking up the slack next year since it will be much further from my home location. I would definitely be willing to listen to and / or give advice based on what I learned this year.

Meeting was adjourned by Sproutter at 7:48pm