

Minutes of WSGA Board Meeting October 27th, 2011

Hydnsek called WSGA's 5th Business meeting of the year to order at 7:07PM on October 27th, 2011.

Board members in attendance: idajo2 (Jo Dunn), jcar (Jim Bertrand), acfunk (Al Funk), Kidvegas19 (Jim Parkman), Mc3cats (Chris Brue), hydnek (Abby Wolfe), Fluteface (Margaret Dunn), FredNVicki (Vicki Carter), mazeracer (Nate Canfield)

Absent: lucymogus (Elaine Edwards), pazooter (Bruce Clark)

Others mentioned during the meeting and listed here for reference: Lizzy, Wraastro, tolmaus, Jester, meandbrea, NepoKama

Thanks to Kidvegas19 for providing World Series updates during the meeting. ;)

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August 25th, 2011 Board meeting were approved unanimously.

Membership– Reported by jcar

Summary:

252 Individual members

100 Family members

11 Associate members

Total members: 363, an increase of 13 from the last board meeting. This time last year, we had 342 members.

Chapter Breakdowns

Chapters	Individual	Family	Associate	Total
Puget Sound	120	44	1	165
48 North	45	15	0	60
Inland Empire	27	11	5	43
North Olympic Peninsula	21	13	1	35
Southwest	11	4	1	16
South Central	16	7	0	23
Cache-Cadia	12	6	0	18
Unaffiliated	0	0	0	3
Totals	252	100	11	363

These numbers reflect the October 1 move of the chapter border between Puget Sound and 48 North to the Snohomish/King county line. As a result, 22 members moved from Puget Sound to 48 North chapter.

Hydnsek noted that membership will continue to be calendar-year, even though annual Board elections are moving to March in 2013.

Finances - Reported by jcar for lucymogus

Status of the WSGA accounts as of 10/24/11:

Checking balance:	\$6219.85
PayPal balance:	\$1164.10
Petty Cash:	\$ 165.00
Total:	\$7548.95

We have started receiving a trickle of renewals. The vast majority is still to come, probably another \$2000+ in renewals through the end of the year.

Expenses so far this month:

Invision:	\$25.00 (website)
Staples:	\$31.54
Mailers:	\$36.33

Chase has permanently waived our monthly fee.

Upcoming expenses. (estimates)

2012 Coin	\$2500.00
2012 Campout	\$2000 (initially, for reservation)
Member mailing	\$300-500
Membership supplies	\$75
Chapter allocations	\$1500
2012 pathtag ?	\$1000 (Member bonus + some to sell)
2012 T-shirts ?	\$1500
2012 WSGA cachekinz ?	\$1000

Reminder to all chapter reps: Turn in your receipts for reimbursement, you have until the end of January.

Merchandise – Reported by jcar

Board agreed to defer some discussion until 2012 planning in January.

Merchandise levels are about where they were last time, but the last newsletter did spawn some sales of the 2011 coin and a few 2010 coins. We still have plenty left of 2011, silver ape, and ape cachekinz.

Re: some items proposed last meeting, like a WSGA cachekinz; we'll need to defer those decisions until priorities are made on 2012/shirts/pathtags.

Member Bonus mailing – Reported by jcar

Based on experience with this year's lanyard member bonus – especially packaging and mailing them (still working on it) – I recommend we go back to a pathtag for future years, mainly because they are cheaper to mail.

I also recommend we do it earlier in the year. While it is great to send something out to our members in the fall with our accomplishments for the year, we also incur additional expenses of the mailing.

Hydnsek: You'd like to do the bonus mailings along with the annual nametags, is that right? One mailing a year to members.

Jcar: Yes, but I was also trying to defer to your preference to do some sort of accomplishments letter.

Kidvegas19: Don't we want a mailing now while most memberships are to be renewed? Fluteface agreed.

Mc3cats: Just a thought, what about handing the bonus items out at the holiday events? We get big turnouts at those events (and other events).

Hydnsek: Yes, but not the entire club is there. The bonuses are for all members, and we'd have to sort out who got theirs in person vs. mailings. It's kind of a mess that way.

Fluteface: At the holiday events, we get everybody, not just WSGA members. I like to be in a giving mood for all at the holiday, not just WSGA members.

Jcar also mentioned someone would need to be responsible for mailing to those who don't attend the events. Chapter Rep or mail them all back to a central location?

Consensus was to continue the fall mailing, but do something that can be mailed to members in a first-class envelope rather than a bubble envelope, which costs over four times as much no matter how light it is. Pathtags and patches fit the bill currently.

Chapter boundaries – Reported by hydnek

Read into the minutes from the WSGA forum post:

After gathering input from members and local geocachers in various areas of the state, plus looking at geographies and caching activity, the Board approved WSGA's first official chapter boundaries on Sept. 29, 2011.

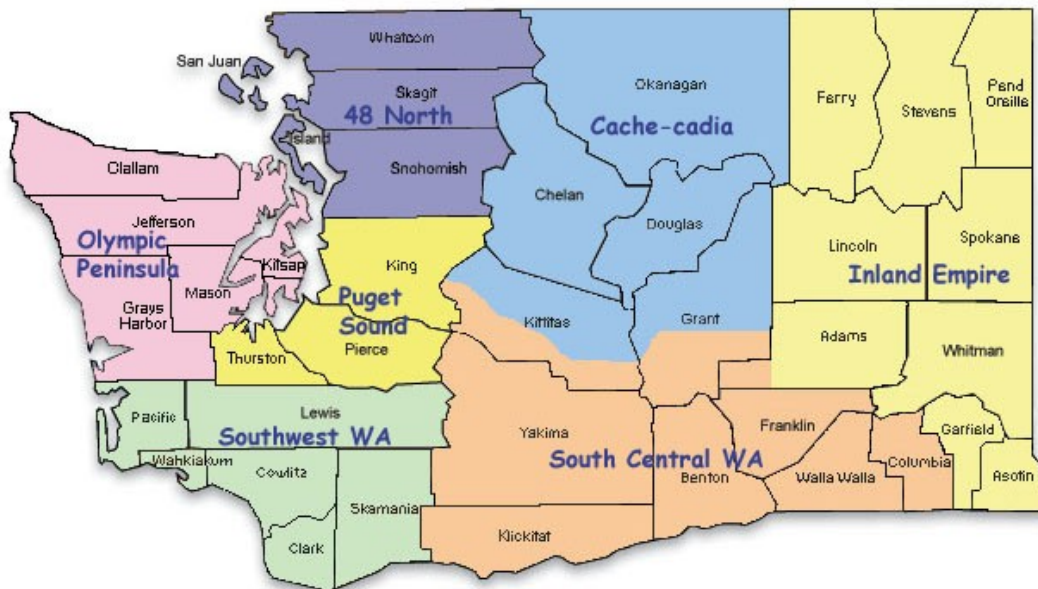
The new chapter borders take effect Jan. 1, 2012 (except as noted below). These are not carved in stone, and can be adjusted when needed, but the changes here improve on the previous arbitrarily defined boundaries and should benefit both the club and cachers.

The current seven-chapter structure of WSGA is retained, with the following revisions:

- *Southern Snohomish County moves to 48 North Chapter, and the boundary for Puget Sound / 48 North becomes the King/Snohomish county line (effective Oct. 1).*
- *North Olympic Peninsula Chapter is renamed to Olympic Peninsula Chapter.*
- *Grays Harbor and Mason counties become part of Olympic Peninsula Chapter, as does the piece of Pierce County that's on the Kitsap Peninsula. (All moved from Puget Sound Chapter.)*
- *Puget Sound Chapter consists of King, Pierce, and Thurston counties.*
- *Columbia County and the panhandle of Adams County move to South Central WA Chapter (from IE Chapter).*
- *No changes to Cache-cadia or Southwest WA chapters.*

Our Secretary (jcar) will update the membership database accordingly after the December elections. As always, any member can choose to align to a different chapter simply by making the change in your online profile.

Here's an updated map of the chapter alignments:



Geocoins – Reported by Fluteface

The 2012 WSGA geocoin was designed by NepoKama and is in final design phase, with a goal of being minted and available in Jan/Feb 2012.

FluteFace: Just this evening, I posted two of the coin designs (basically the same) that Mitch gave us in the private Geocoin forum. They are similar except for the metals. I will take the role of purchasing tracking numbers from Groundspeak, as Oakcoins now charges a fee to do that. It will save about \$100.

After a long discussion on how many to order, a motion was made by Fluteface that we purchase 300 geocoins per the estimate obtained and posted in the forums, with a breakdown of 270 black nickel and 30 satin gold (48 cents more per coin). We will move into production ASAP, and obtain two samples (black nickel and satin gold) at \$20-30 for the pair. The motion was seconded and approved.

2012 Campout - Reported by Fluteface

FluteFace and Lizzy have agreed to jointly head the 2012 Campout, which is being hosted by 48 North Chapter on July 27-29.

FluteFace: A number of us visited the Masonic Park along the Mountain Loop Hwy (Abby, Jcar, Lizzy, me, Wraastro -- our Masonic representative) a few weeks ago to have a look. It was nice looking, a good area with electricity, shelters including one large one, children's play area. Grass and right next to the river. The drawbacks: showers are a 5-minute walk, bathroom rather small, holding tanks must be used for those who use trailers; I can't remember about water hookups. But there are no other campgrounds up the Mountain Loop with large enough group areas or electricity for those that might want them. No cell phone reception, but Granite Falls is just a few minutes away.

Photos are available in the campground forum along with updates.

Mazeracer: Reachable with something 12' tall? (Motor homes are taller.)

Fluteface: Don't know if there's a height restriction, will look into.

Acfunk: How about a fire ring for group gathering?

Fluteface: The ring is another drawback. They aren't big, but in reading the 'rules' we might just need to get prior approval. No big campfire ring.

Idajo2: At the Ft. Worden campout, they had a huge trailer for the large campfire, if I recall correctly.

Fluteface: I seem to remember a coffin one year? Pt. Townsend??

Hydnsek: Yes, Team Misguided brought their coffin grill to Pt Townsend.

Hydnsek: The lack of a central gathering spot (fire ring) and the small bathrooms are my concerns, but I think the location, privacy, and other amenities swing it for me.

Hydnsek proposed deferring a vote on location until more details are available, with goal of voting on 2012 campout location by December 1, so reservations can be made in early January. We need the details on cost, date confirmation, etc.

Chapter Reports

North Olympic Peninsula – Reported by Idajo2

The North Olympic Peninsula Chapter - soon to be the Olympic Peninsula Chapter - has been quiet since (and prior to) the last WSGA Board meeting, due to my recent move from Ridgefield to Port Angeles. However, my recent Chapter Rep inactivity will soon be a thing of the past! A plan is important and I've got one! I will be attending the 11-11-11 event tolmaus is co-hosting in Sequim, and I'm looking forward to meeting as many local catchers as possible. I talked with Caroline (tolmaus) today and (pending her co-host's permission) - I will be giving a short WSGA spiel at the event - including encouraging WSGA membership and urging members to vote during Board elections December 1–15.

I have a simple (pre-or-post) holiday event on my radar, but I'm not quite ready to commit to that. I'll need some help for an event of that type and I'll have a better handle on what's available after the 11-11-11 event.

Also, I've been in touch with a Poulsbo catcher who hopes that an event can be held in that area. So, assuming I'm nominated and re-elected, a January event in Poulsbo (Kitsap/Pierce Cos.) is in the works. Should I not be here next year, I'll pass along any work done on the event page, etc. to my successor.

The OP Chapter will undergo a significant increase in size in 2012. So, tucked into the "things to think about" section of my brain, are additional 2012 events in Port Angeles (Clallam Co.), Aberdeen (Grays Harbor Co.), Port Townsend (Jefferson Co.) and Shelton (Mason Co.).

In closing, I'm happy to see the WSGA Facebook page getting so much "action" . . . 155 LIKES! WTG, WSGA!!!

Inland Empire – Reported by kidvegas19

IE hosted a river cleanup CITO at the beginning of October, thanks to Elaine. Not a huge turnout but we got the job done.

Upcoming events:

- This Saturday the IE Chapter Ghouls N Grub in Cheney. We have a haunted patch of land!!!

- We will be having an 11/11/11 event in November in conjunction with our Idaho friends. We talked the event into being held in Spokane Valley. It will be great.
- Our 10/10/10 event had nearly 100 people. Not bad for a tiny burg in the middle of nowhere.

Puget Sound – Reported by Mc3cats

In September, I brought the event road show up to the north end of the chapter in Woodinville and sprung a new game at that event that was similar to the old game show "Lets Make A Deal". It turned out really well.

This month, I took the road show to Thurston County in Olympia and found a perfect location at an Izzys Restaurant. Great location and did another LMAD game at that event.

As future events go, I have nothing planned for the rest of the year other than the WSGA Holiday party, scheduled for January 14th in Renton at the same location as last year. I already have contacted the Kennydale Memorial Hall and have a hold on the date. I am formally asking the Board for approval for the funds for the hall rental which, including the deposit, will be \$825. \$200 of that is refundable. I am trying to get Jester to do his magic show again.

[Post-meeting update: We moved the event to Sunday, Jan. 15, which combined with our new state nonprofit status, let us rent the hall for \$225 plus deposit – a savings of \$425!]

During 2011, I've held events in Feb, March, Apr, May, June, July, Sept, and Oct. *[Way to go, Chris!]*

South Central – Reported by mazeracer

We are having an "11-11-11 at 11:11:11" event and are in the planning stages for a Tri-City geocoin event for next year, with each city sponsoring a section of a puzzle coin, thanks to Jen W (meandbrea).

48 North – Fluteface

Our CITO event in Marysville was a few weeks ago, and we had roughly two dozen attendees. We filled and overflowed the truck we were given with ivy, and collected a fair amount of garbage. The food was yummy. It sounds like they'd like to have us back, and gave us the use of the shelter for free, with electricity for crock pots.

Next up is our holiday celebration, scheduled for December 10th in Marysville again. And that's what I've got. I haven't been as busy as PS due to my health issues earlier in the year, and my folks' issues, but that seems to be easing.

New Business

Holiday parties – Led by hydNSEK

Encourage all the chapter reps to follow Flutey and Chris's examples and have a holiday party in your chapter in December or January. It's great to get them on the calendar early, so folks can plan to attend. The Puget Sound one is huge, with folks coming from around the state, so we try to list it a couple months before. The gift exchanges are popular, as well.

FluteFace added: They are usually well attended, and you can get help easily.

2012 elections – Led by hydNSEK

The Vice President is in charge of the annual Board election. This year, that's acfunkt. We will begin taking nominations tonight, and will close them on November 9, unless AI has a different date in mind.

This has been the strongest Board the club's ever had, and I hope many of you will choose to run again, especially as 2012 is our 10th anniversary, and the term is 15 months for this one time, due to the change in our election schedule. We also welcome new blood. If you aren't running again, we ask your help in recruiting new candidates, especially the chapter reps.

Nine current Board members were nominated for the 2012 Board:

- HydNSEK for President
- Jcar for Vice President
- Lucymogus for Treasurer
- Acfunkt for Secretary
- Idajo2 for Olympic Peninsula Chapter Rep
- Mc3cats for Puget Sound Chapter Rep
- Mazeracer for South Central Chapter Rep
- Kidvegas19 for Inland Empire Chapter Rep
- FluteFace for 48 North Chapter Rep

Two Chapter Rep positions are vacant: Cache-Cadia and Southwest WA.

The Nominating Committee, led by acfunkt, will work on finding nominees for the two open positions in addition to finding additional nominees for all positions.

[Post-meeting update: jcar and mc3cats volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee chaired by acfunkt.]

Bylaws – Reported by hydNSEK

WSGA's Bylaws have needed major revision for several years, due to the growth and expansion of the club and its activities. Hydnek volunteered to draft an update, based on input from prior and current Board members, and will have it ready for review, discussion, and Board vote by December, with a goal of enacting the revised Bylaws on Jan. 1, 2012.

Hydnek added at the end of the meeting: Thanks for a great year, everyone! Here's to 2012 being even better!

Meeting adjourned at 9:13.