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Subject: News from Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts
Date: June 17, 2011 7:45:13 AM PDT
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WAKE Newsletter June 2011



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NEXT CLUB MEETING:
Tuesday, June 21st, 2011
At the Bellingham Public Library
Doors open at 7 pm

YOGA for 'YAKERS

If your kayaking enjoyment has been affected by aches, pains or loss of range of motion, **Kathleen Grimby** will show you how yoga makes happy paddlers. No experience is necessary and adaptations allowing everyone's participation are



the name of the game. **Wear comfortable clothes and bring a blanket or mat for this easy, participatory experience.**

Kathleen's love of yoga began 38 years ago and led to becoming a Kripalu yoga teacher in 1995. Her search for healing after four auto accidents led her to study and specialize in yoga therapy for sports and injuries.

Whitewater guiding 33 years ago began Kathleen's love of paddling. In 1988 she began Blue Moon Explorations and outfitted, guided and instructed in Alaska, BC, Washington, Hawaii and Baja.

Saturday - June 18, 2011 WAKE Symposium

The WAKE Symposium is a day of short clinics devoted to gaining new skills or brush up on old ones.

When: Saturday, June 18th

Where: Lake Padden swimming beach area

Time: 8 am to 5 pm

Lunch is a potluck. Please bring something to share!

This event is open to WAKE members only. If you aren't currently a member you may join at the event by completing an application.

For complete details and a schedule of activities, visit our website:
www.wakekayak.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May and June are busy months for WAKE: Demo Day and the Gear Swap, Ski-to-Sea, the George Gronseth workshop, Members Helping Members, "Show Up" paddles, program meetings, and the upcoming Symposium. I think we're ready for a couple of months of break time to get out paddling.

The financial summary from the Gear Swap appears elsewhere in this issue, so I won't spend much space discussing it --- other than to again thank everyone who helped out and our exhibitors for their

support. With the weather and smaller crowds (due largely to our not being associated with the Ski-to-Sea event this time), there weren't as many sales; but we still came out ahead.

From what I've heard from participants in the Gronseth workshop, it was very well received, although the weather wasn't the nicest and the water in Lake Whatcom pretty chilly. His workshops are concentrated and intense, and our members enjoyed it and learned a great deal. Having full enrollment was nice as well. We have other good instructors to draw upon, so let me know if you have interest in another workshop for later this summer.

July and August are the heart of the peak paddle trip months in our area, but we need you to suggest and/or recommend paddles you want and will do.

Here are some Day Trip suggestions to get you thinking:

- Gooseberry Point to Lummi DNR campsite
- Fairhaven or Wildcat Cove to Chuckanut Bay
- Circumnavigate Portage Island with a stop on Lummi for lunch at the Beach Store Café
- Semiahmoo to and up Dakota Creek
- Mt. Vernon to LaConnor float on the Skagit River
- Burrows & Allen Islands
- Baker Lake

Where do you want to paddle? Would any of you like to have some mid-week paddles? Let us know, via info@wakekayak.org. And, the Board continues to call for members to coordinate or "lead" these trips.

I'm sorry to have to report that, due to lack of participation, the Members Helping Members (MHM) sessions have been cut back from once a week to every other week. Combined with the lack of interest in pool sessions as well as the "Show Up @ Starbucks" paddles, the Board, those who've volunteered their time to lead trips and conduct training, and I are perplexed as to how to proceed. Our interest surveys have shown that you want training and paddle trips, but few are actually participating.

Please take a moment to let us know, through info@wakekayak.org, what you want and how we can make WAKE enhance your kayaking.

Ted, President

2011 - Demo Day/Gear Swap Financial Summary

The following financial summary is from the WAKE Demo Day and Gear Swap event on May 8th at Bloedel Donovan Park.

-
Income

Gross Sales	\$ 5540.00
Less Commissions	- 5179.50*
	=====
Subtotal	360.50
Membership Dues	125.00
Demo Bracelets	235.00
Vendor Booth Fees	525.00
	=====
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1245.50
<u>Expenses</u>	
Park Rent	300.00
Food & Drink	99.63
Forms**	79.44
Posters	38.44
	=====
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 517.51
<u>NET PROCEEDS***</u>	\$ 727.99

*Community Boating Center Sales of \$1935 yielded no commission to WAKE
**Some forms (e.g. waivers and membership forms) can be used at future events
***A bullhorn (megaphone) was purchased for 31.99. Intended for use at DD/GS, it was not used but will be useful at other WAKE events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Members Helping Members - June 23rd

Community Boating Center 5pm to 7pm

Show Up at Starbucks Paddle - June 25th

9am meet at Sehome Village Shopping Center Starbucks.

WAKE Symposium - June 18th

For members only, a day of short skills clinics, potluck lunch and fun on the water events in the afternoon.

Gulf Islands Paddle - July 18-24

Becky Hardey, Leader (bhardey@gmail.com)





2011 SKI-TO-SEA WRAP-UP

By Ted Wang

For the third year, **WAKE** has provided the Ski-to-Sea safety/rescue kayakers for that leg of the event, and this year gave us what some veteran participants reported as the roughest conditions ever. As near as I can calculate, our kayakers (Ray Bailey, Becky Hardey, Dave Church, Gary Sullivan (a new member), Dave Peebles, and myself) fished around 2 dozen paddlers out of the water - a small fraction of those who had to be rescued by the motorized rescue fleet from the Community Boating Center; Snohomish; Whatcom, and Skagit County Sheriffs' Departments; the Coast Guard Auxiliary; and US Customs & Border Patrol.

An incoming tide, accompanied by gusty winds from the S/SW, created wind waves in excess of 3' at the Squalicum Harbor breakwater. Capsizes were frequent, with multiple capsizes by the same paddler far from uncommon. Although the competitive group did alright, quite a few of the recreational teams had unseaworthy kayaks and insufficient skills to handle the conditions. We saw boats with missing hatch covers, and paddlers wearing unzipped life jackets. I believe that only unexpectedly warm surface water conditions prevented any life-threatening situations from developing.

A rumor is going around that the kayaking leg was cancelled, which isn't true of course, but the race officials did end it a half hour sooner than scheduled for safety. Recognizing that there are significant issues with equipment and participant respect for conditions on Bellingham Bay, Ski-to-Sea is forming a group to discuss these issues as they develop the materials for next year's event. I fully expect that WAKE will be invited to be an active participant in this process, and it's obvious that having more of us on the water for Ski-to-Sea would be very helpful.

I want to encourage our members to train for rough water conditions and hone those paddling and rescue skills. A simple day paddle can change into challenging conditions that call for more advanced skills. Besides, working on developing or polishing those skills can be a lot of fun!

Next Club Meeting and Newsletter will be in September

July and August are the two months we experience most of our sea kayaking adventures here in the Pacific Northwest. We will suspend our monthly club meetings and newsletters until September.

For ongoing WAKE member news and information please visit our website anytime!

www.wakekayak.org

Enjoy the wonders our shared passion for kayaking offers us here, in one of

the most beautiful sea kayaking areas on earth! Paddle safe!

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