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To further the enjoyment, knowledge and safety of kayaking by providing training and a wide variety of trips and social events to our members and the general public

## WAKE Newsletter OCTOBER 2011

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### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW FOR 2012!

When you renew your WAKE membership for 2012 you will be entered into a drawing to win a **new kayak\*\***! The winning name will be announced at the Christmas Party on December 2nd!

**\*\*JUST GO TO OUR WEBSITE: And there won't be anything there that says anything about winning a new kayak!**

Just checking to see if you're paying attention!

Because of the loud volume of crickets coming from our attempt in finding volunteers, we needed to do something eye popping!

### CLUB MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18th

At the Bellingham Library

7:00pm Social time w/snacks & beverages

7:30pm Presentation begins

### KAYAKING THE CHILEAN COAST



Nearly a decade ago, while browsing a world atlas, **Becky Peace and Nick Giguere** picked out the southern coast of Chile as an ultimate kayaking destination. In the **fall of 2010**, armed with advice from a few local kayakers, the blessing of the Chilean Navy, and brand new wedding bands, **the couple**

As we were saying...

Renewing your membership now for 2012 is a good thing, "because times, they are a changin'"

Go to [www.wakekayak.org](http://www.wakekayak.org)

Click on "Join Us" Fill out the [Membership Form](#) (renewal form) and mail with a check written to WAKE.

WAKE, P.O. Box 1952, Bellingham, WA 98227.

Membership is \$25 per household.

## turned 1200 miles on a map into 100 days of wilderness paddling.

Their presentation will follow their progression down the **Chilean coast of Patagonia from Puerto Montt to Puerto Natales** with discussions on planning, logistics, wind and rain and waves, albatross, Chilean culture, and a modern day environmental battle to save the last wild place on earth.

### Bios:

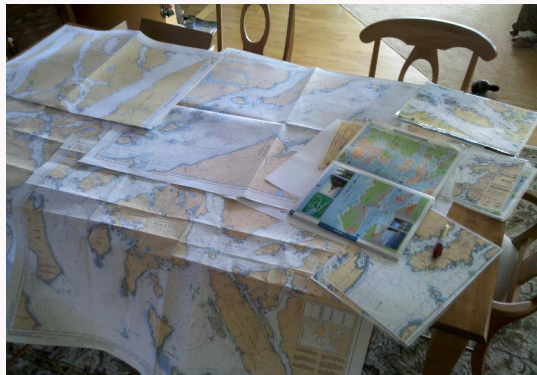
**Nick Giguere** got his first taste of adventure while working on a Student Conservation Association trail crew in Alaska. He has been committed to outdoor adventure ever since and now uses his skills professionally as a Wilderness Ranger at North Cascades National Park. Nick holds a degree in Conservation Biology and utilizes his naturalist training as a compliment to his outdoor pursuits. Nick paddles a modified Pygmy Arctic Tern.

**Becky Peace** is a graduate of Huxley College of the Environment. She started working for the National Park Service at age 19, and has spent every summer working in the outdoors since. Becky currently leads a forest monitoring crew at North Cascades National Park and is collecting data to help detect large scale climate related changes in forest structures. Nick and Becky completed the 1,200 mile Inside Passage in 2007 and call Bellingham their home. Becky paddles a Nigel Dennis Romany Explorer.

## PADDLE PLANNING PARTY (say that 10 times fast, it's kind of easy)

What could be better following the announcement of the up coming presentation than an announcement for planning our own adventures? Gather your charts, maps, trip reports and dreams and join in the conversation and get your ideas on the calendar!

**At this time we are working on the details for when and where this planning party will take place. Details will be available at our club meeting on Tuesday, October 18th.**



Reviewing charts for a 30 day trip - July 2011

Fall is the time to begin planning for next summer's adventures and block out those days for when you pack up your boat and hit the water in 2012. Setting aside the time now will help guarantee your dreams will come true. Be part of the conversation and help make plans for winter day paddle excursions, holiday paddles, training sessions and lots more for the months ahead!

**Plan to attend the up coming Paddle Planning Party!**

## WAKE Business Meeting UPDATE

The WAKE business meeting was held on Thursday, October 6th. Those present were Barb Francis, Dave Church, Jill Mitchell, Jeff Irving, John Janney, Ray and Debbie Bailey.

The agenda and discussion follows:

**I. Schedule Paddling Options:** At this time of year, the members helping members sessions on Thursday evening will be moving to a weekend day due to reduced day light hours in the evenings. Pool sessions and weekend day paddles will be set up.

\* Pool sessions for kayaks are already offered through the Arne Hana Aquatic Center: Tue & Thu from 8pm to 9pm and Sun 1pm to 2pm. We can use their scheduled times and if enough people are interested we can schedule our own sessions lasting one and a half hours.

\*Weekend Paddles/Training Sessions: Afternoon paddling options will be scheduled with a specific route/destination planned, skill level recommendation and contact person to answer any questions. Skills training sessions will also be offered on weekends through the winter months. Overnight trips in the winter is also being discussed.

This is just the beginning of the conversation. The planning party stated above will help to establish our paddling schedule.

**II. Website Update:** The information available on our website will be expanded to offer more thorough resources needed for kayaking. We will post a yearly calendar, each month listing paddles, events and other items important to WAKE members. A list of local launch sites in Whatcom and Skagit County will be available. Updating photos and adding videos will be an ongoing effort to keeping material interesting and fresh.

**III. Board Recruitment:** At this time the club is in need of a treasurer and a secretary. Dave Church has been assigned interim President and Secretary. Barb Francis is newsletter editor, interim treasurer and facilitating meetings. There is a real need to recruit new members now. If you have questions or want to get involved. Please contact Barb at [info@wakekayak.org](mailto:info@wakekayak.org)

**VI. WAKE Facebook Page:** It's true! We are almost there. If you are on Facebook you will soon have the choice to be friends with WAKE. This will provide a fun way to learn about last minute paddles or trips. Share photos and info on your adventures. More will be revealed soon!

**V. Christmas Party:** Hey, want to help with putting on a great party? The Christmas Party committee is now forming to organize the details and tasks necessary to have a great time! The different areas needing help are: silent auction, found treasure gift exchange, meal planning and decorations, set up and take down. Contact Barb at [info@wakekayak.org](mailto:info@wakekayak.org)

The discussion covered many ideas and brainstormed for trips, events, trainings, resources and gear stuff too. Get a handful of people together interested in kayaking and the sky's the limit. We are all interested in the same thing, we want to paddle, learn and have fun!

## Calendar of Events:

### WAKE Events:

October 13 - Members Helping Members - 5pm to 7pm (last Thurs. evening)

**session)**

Lake Padden by the tennis courts. You need not arrive precisely at 5 to participate. Check the west end of the lake and you'll see the action. Followed by a gathering for "burgers & brew."

**October 22 - Show Up at Starbucks Paddle - 9am to 4pm**

Meet at Sehome Village Shopping Center Starbucks. It is essential to read the required equipment list in order to participate. Go to: [www.wakekayak.org](http://www.wakekayak.org) Check out the right column for "Upcoming Events" to learn more.

**Paddle Planning Party - To be Announced. (watch this space)**

**December 2 - WAKE Christmas Party - Squalicum Yacht Club 6-9pm**

More information below.

**Around the Region:**

**October 26-30th - Greenland Week Kayak Festival and Qajaq Competition,  
Hosted by Kayak Academy, Lake Sammamish, Issaquah, WA**

Join the Kayak Academy for a week of traditional Greenland-style kayaking lessons, demonstrations, competitions and social activities during our annual Greenland Week Kayak Festival. Spectators are welcome, and the competition and demos are open to the public.

Check out the entire schedule at:

[www.kayakacademy.com](http://www.kayakacademy.com)

**2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY - Friday, December 2nd**

The WAKE Holiday Party will be held on December 2nd, at the Squalicum Yacht Club 6-9pm. This year, we will once again have a silent auction, offering wonderful items we all will be interested in bidding on. A list of the businesses donating items will be in the November newsletter.

Last year we had a very successful "I Found it While Paddling" gift exchange. And so we are doing it again this year. Just wrap up one or two of the amazing treasures you found along your travels while paddling and exchange it with another partier. The more obscure the better! It's amazing what people come across out there and the beaches will be somewhat cleaner too!

WAKE will provide a turkey to the potluck dinner. Soft drinks and water will also be offered. All plates, plastic ware, cups and napkins will be provided. We will be dividing up potluck menu items in an organized manner among the members. More details on this to come later.

The Holiday Party is also the Annual Meeting at which the membership nominates and votes for the WAKE Board of Directors. Please consider becoming more involved in your club and be a member of the board!

**New Launch Site Proposed For Downtown Bellingham!**

Bellingham Port Commissioner Michael McAuley is proposing a kayak launch site in downtown Bellingham. The proposed location is the water way where the Horizon ship is

docked and the tall old grain elevator. The other two port commissioners, need to know if there is interest for this in our community for this new and exciting launch site. Please send them an email supporting this proposal!

Commissioner McAuley writes:

*"What I am working on is a basic kayak accessible launch on the water with a gangway up to an existing parking area. The dock would be placed next to the old GP water clarifier below Central Street. The adjacent parking area could support approximately 30 parked cars and I am not proposing that we install any amenities, just the access. Eventually, the area will have a more complete park-like buildout but in the meantime I believe we can easily provide this hand launch access without excessive cost or getting in the way of other development projects.*

*I would certainly offer my thanks if you and all your paddling friends would contact my fellow commissioners in support of this plan."*

**What the heck, you're sitting at your computer right now.  
Send them a note of support for this great idea!  
Let's help make this happen!**

The three Port Commissioners are:

Scott Walker    scottw@portofbellingham.com  
Jim Jorgensen    jimj@portofbellingham.com  
Michael McAuley    michaelm@portofbellingham.com

## 2011 Quad Club Picnic Review

WAKE was well represented at the Quad club picnic again this year. I don't know how we were able to get such a fantastic break in the weather, but somehow it happened. There were between 60-70 people from the clubs who attended. It seemed like everywhere I looked there were people with paddles in hand and smiles on their faces, especially when it was time to hit the potluck line. I have to say, kayakers know how to do potluck!

We started off the morning with a gear swap which ran all day and not much was left by the end of the picnic.



Marianne brought a volleyball net and ball. Dennis, Susan and Vanessa showed me how to play this game but mostly reminded me how out of shape I am. We also had kayak games in the morning which were well attended and lots of fun; so many boats and colors in the water at the same time!

During the potluck, we had a raffle of items donated by Yeagers and represented by Dylan Rees. The grand prize, however, was a \$100 gift certificate to REI donated by the Hole In The Wall Club. After the potluck most of the paddlers split into two groups, one going to Biz Point and the other going to Deception Pass.

All in all, everyone seemed to have a great time and I'm really looking forward to next year.

## MEMBER PROFILE

### JILL MITCHELL

One of WAKE's newest members is Jill Mitchell. Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, she moved from Lake Tahoe to Bellingham in March of this year. Not one to waste any time, she dove right into kayaking by joining both WAKE and Hole in the Wall clubs.



Jill's first kayak experience was with a day tour out of Monterey, CA. After a few hours in the boat and on the water, she knew she'd found a new hobby. Although Jill had kayaked alpine lakes and a tour or two (one in the San Juans) she doesn't feel as if she really started kayaking til she moved to this area (location, location, location!) which afforded the type of kayaking Jill had dreamed about doing and providing opportunities to acquire the necessary skills. That's where the club comes in: meeting people with a common interest to paddle with and in learning the skills necessary to go paddling out in the islands and on the bay.

Jill is eager to learn anything and everything from strokes, rescues, and rolling, to reading the water and anything else it takes to make her a safe and reliable paddler both alone and in a group setting. She likes listening to others tell of their adventures which gives her more ideas of places to paddle and experiences she's yet to have. To date, a couple of her favorite places are kayaking to Stuart Island and Jones Island. She's looking forward to WAKE offering more paddles, trips, events and other fun stuff.

Jill is not a one-dimensional person, enjoying just about anything outside such as hiking, backpacking, snow shoeing and was a certified guide and hike leader for the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, sometimes leading weekend snow camping in tents. Brrrr! She's also certified in wilderness first aid, CPR, and etc. These settings fit right in with her love of photography and it's not uncommon to see Jill with camera in hand.

She is enjoying all the new technology available to us and says we are living in exciting digital times. Jill likes excitement which you will learn if you engage her in a conversation about her past career choices! Currently, she is very tamely employed as Tech Support for Caterpillar.

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