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Subject: WAKE December Newsletter 2011
Date: December 13, 2011 11:20:08 PM PST
To: clspano1@gmail.com
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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 paddle Mud Bay - Oct 29th, 2011

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

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FUN WAS HAD BY ALL at the WAKE Christmas Party! And the club welcomes four new board members!

The Squalicum Yacht Clubhouse was the perfect venue for a bunch of kayakers to gather and share an incredible meal. Thank you everyone for your delicious contributions to our dinner. Special thanks to Dave Peebles for preparing two turkeys and to Bonnie Alm for preparing the ham!

The party goes also had a very impressive collection of silent auction items to choose from. There was a wide variety, from a whitewater kayak and kayaking gear and car carrier, to beautiful Greenland paddles by Dave Harris and Ray Bailey. Also fine pieces of art including an



Dave Peebles carving the turkey

exceptional photograph of an Orca with her calf by Gene Davis and prints of paintings that actually looked like photographs by Carmen Witte. A hand painted plastic wine glass that packs down into it's own stuff sack from Becky Hardey, caused a lively bidding war!



Milling around the auction items.

Our Christmas party was also our **annual club meeting**. We opened the floor up to those interested and ready to become board members for the coming year. Four people were nominated and elected to serve as new WAKE board members for 2012. **The new board members are: Lori Wilkinson, Helene Irving, Reg Lake and Jeff Irving.** Also Barb Francis and Dave Church are incumbent members agreeing to serve another year on the board.

The new board of directors held their first meeting on Thursday, December 8th. Reg Lake was not present due to being out of town. **The board selected the officers for the next year.**

They are as follows:

President - Barb Francis

Vice Presidents - Helene Irving and Dave Church

Secretary - Lori Wilkinson

Treasurer - Jeff Irving

With the new board in place we have a lot to look forward to in the new year! Thank you all for stepping up and volunteering in your club.

NEXT CLUB MEETING - JANUARY 17th, 2012
At the Bellingham Public Library - Lower level
7pm - Social time
7:30pm - Presentation begins

Leon and Shawna from Body, Boat and Blade.
Their presentation will be on Kayak Safety.

More Information on this to come soon!



Nothing like sharing the adventure with friends!

Renew Your Membership Now for 2012!

December is the best time to renew your membership to WAKE!

With the new board in place and other members engaged in volunteering with events and paddles, 2012 is perfectly positioned to be a fun year with new events and more paddling opportunities for all WAKE members!

Renewing your membership will assure continued benefits "exclusive" to members which include: Participation in the WAKE Symposium in June and "Members-Helping-Members" clinics year round and subsidized cost of professional instruction. You also enjoy "WAKE only" paddle trips and participation in activities we share with the Hole In The Wall Paddling Club. We have the ability to offer extended length pool sessions if enough members are interested. Other benefits are receiving our newsletter, attend our Holiday Party and vote for your board members.

Just go to our website: www.wakekayak.org
Print the application, fill it out, sign it and mail it back!

Not bad for only \$25 per household for a year!

**Trip Planning Meeting Scheduled
Wed, Jan. 25th @ 6:30pm
at Rudy's Pizzeria on N. State St.**

It's time to plan trips for 2012!

Gather your charts, maps, trip reports and dreams and join in the conversation and get your ideas on the calendar!

The time is now for planning next summer's adventures and to 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 on Wednesday, Jan. 25th!
Held at Rudy's at 6:30pm!**



Bring your charts and ideas!



Member Profile Jeff Irving

This month's member profile is Jeff Irving, a member of WAKE for about one year and newly elected to the WAKE Board for 2012.

Raised N. of Spokane, Jeff's been living in the Bellingham area for about 26 years. Although introduced to kayaking about 15 years ago, Jeff says he has really only applied himself to the sport for about three years. We'll let Jeff tell us about himself in his own words:

"My first time in a kayak was about 15 years ago. A girlfriend at the time suggested we rent singles and head out across Lake Union with no instruction, it was a great day. The second time was about five years later. We rented a double for a 4 day camping trip on Ross Lake; what an awesome trip. The next time out I decided it would be fun to roll and nearly drowned myself. Not only was I clueless about how to roll, it became pretty obvious to me that discovering your grab loop is tucked underneath the spray deck when upside down in the water is not a good thing."

*"Anyhow, about 4 years ago I was talking with a friend about buying a boat and learning how not to become a Darwin award recipient. He suggested I take some courses from Body Boat Blade. **I can't say enough about Shawna and Leon who own Body Boat Blade**, but will say they really inspired me to learn about the sport. It's truly amazing what our kayaks can do! When taking a classes with them and seeing how effortlessly they move their boats in dynamic conditions it really spurs me on to learn more."*

"I joined WAKE because there is still so much for me to learn to have the confidence to undertake some of the trips that are floating around in my mind. I'm simply amazed by the experience and skills that members of the club are willing to share. I think that being in the club will be a great way to meet folks to paddle with, learn from, and share good times with."

*"At the club Christmas party this year I was sitting with **Bob Kandiko and Karen Neubaur**. The trips they have done to Alaska over the years are really inspiring. **Susan Conrad** was also there. She did a trip up the inside passage solo. I think it is pretty incredible to be able to meet and talk to people with this kind of experience, what a great club! I've seen some really inspiring trips over the years. A couple months ago **Cory Feldman** gave a presentation on skin boats that was simply amazing. Not only was his presentation funny, but it was packed with interesting design considerations for kayaks that I had never considered."*

"My favorite trip (to date) was probably Ross Lake: camping in the double, good company and I love swimming in warm water (it was August). A close second would be Esperenza Inlet off the west coast of Vancouver Island. It seems so wild there. Inside the reefs, though it's still pretty protected, I saw orcas running salmon up into the shallows just a stones throw away and huge rafts of otters. Also, I think one of the beaches we were on had wolf tracks on it, so

that was exciting."

"I really love playing in deception pass and have a surf kayak that is fun to mess around in on the coast....again more learning. I really like surfing! I've also been really excited about paddling out of Neah Bay. It's absolutely amazing to be out in big ocean swell and lose site of the islands you're heading toward when dipping down into the trough of the wave. I really want to paddle around Vancouver Island in the near future."

When asked about training: "For me time on the water and seeing what works for other people is important. I know I need to work on navigation skills and trip planning to round out my skills. I also really think it's important to refresh my rescue skills. I thought I had a bomb proof roll and then messed up in Cattle Pass and needed an assisted rescue. I think now I could re-enter and roll, but like any skill, if not refreshed it's probably become rusty."

*As far as other hobbies: "I really enjoy time in the mountains. In years past I've rock climbed quite a bit and each winter went on an ice climbing trip. Now I'm more interested in long loop hikes in the cascades. A friend of mine has been schooling me on ultra light camping. This coming year I'm hoping to get out with him on some long traverses in the Cascades. **The Northwest is an amazing place to live! We have the mountains and the ocean in our backyards, what could be better?"***

POOL SESSIONS - A Secret Weapon in Building Skills

You know when you're out in the bay and the plan was to mess around and practice wet exits and rescues. Or how about when you're on the lake honing your forward strokes and you know it would be good to work on edging and lean your body away from your kayak to work on sweeps and build confidence. But it's just a bit too windy or you're convinced the water is just too cold to actually roll over and get wet...second thoughts fill your mind and you rationalize that next time we'll do that wet stuff or risk going over, next time, next time...

Here is an opportunity during the cold winter months where daylight hours restrict us to weekend paddling, to learn new skills or practice what you already know in the warm water of an 84 degree pool. This is especially good for the newcomer to learn and practice basic fundamentals without having to wear all the cumbersome gear required outside. You can choose the depth of water you want to practice in. So if you need to bale out of your boat for whatever reason and don't want to self rescue, you can simply stand up, empty your boat and get back in.

Since the water is so clear (and warm), you can learn or practice your roll or other maneuvers while another person videos from under or above water. Being able to see your own technique is a great training tool. There is also a lifeguard on duty at all times.

The Arne Hanna pool rents for \$80/hour. If reserved for 1-1/2 hours and limit the amount of boats to eight, two people could share a boat which usually works pretty well. The cost would be \$15/boat. If we have two people to a boat, that's a heck of a good deal!

Complacency is not a good thing, especially when it comes to sea kayaking. The more you practice the more confidence you build and the more skills you learn. And the more fun you'll have playing around and exploring the beautiful places from your kayak.

We would be more than happy to provide exclusive pool time for WAKE members. We just need to hear from you, find out the level of interest, then reserve the pool!

Calendar of Events

Saturday, 12/17: Members Helping Members, 1 to 4pm

Meet at Marine Park to work on skills and/or get a good paddling workout in.

Please RSVP with Ray for this session.

Contact person: Ray Bailey 384-4901, Baileyray@msn.com

Saturday - Sunday, 12/17 - 12/18: Overnight Trip to Lummi

Paddle to the DNR campsite on Lummi island and spend the night!

More information on our website. Contact person: Gerardo Andaluz

gerardo.andaluz@comcast.net

Sunday, 1/1: New Years Day Paddle in Bellingham Bay:

Launch at Community Boat Center boat launch. Paddle the shoreline of the bay to the BaySide Cafe for brunch! A perfect way to get in your first paddle of the new year and a very fun way bring in the new year! Contact person: Dave Church, davec@wakekayak.org

Sunday, 1/8: Members Helping Members, 1 to 4pm:

Meet at Marine Park to work on skills and/or get a good paddling workout in!

Please RSVP with Ray for this session.

Contact person: Ray Bailey 384-4901, Baileyray@msn.com

Saturday, 1/14: Skagit River Eagle Float Trip:

Meet at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Rockport at 9 am. Will arrange shuttle and proceed to put in either at Marblemount or Copper Creek boat launches. Depends on enthusiasm (or lack of in participants). This section of river is rated I+-II fast water with small riffles. Suitable for beginners with prior experience. Distance 10 -12 miles. Time 3 -4 hours.

Contact person and trip leader: Tom Borst Phone: 360.927.3573

email: tjborst@msn.com

Sunday, 1/22: Members Helping Members: 1 to 4pm:

Same as above! Meet at marine park, work on skills, meet club members in a fun casual setting! **Please RSVP with Ray for this session.**

Contact person: Ray Bailey 384-4901, Baileyray@msn.com

****Wednesday, January 25th - Paddle Planning Session, 6:30pm****

Meet at Rudy's Pizzeria at 1232 No. State Street in Bellingham

Contact person: Jeff Irving, jeff.irving@mac.com

Other Options:

Anybody interested in kayaking in the Greek Islands in 2012?

Dates for trips in 2012 are:

June 12th to 19th

June 19th to 26th

September 2nd to 9th

The itinerary looks fun! The cost is \$1355 per person. If you are interested, we have more information and you can check out the details at: www.greekislandactivities.com

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