

From: Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts <barb@wakekayak.org>
Subject: WAKE January Newsletter 2012
Date: January 10, 2012 8:35:11 PM PST
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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



Westside Cypress Island

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

[New Year's Day Paddle](#)
[Lummi Island Overnight Trip](#)
[Membership Renewal](#)
[Member Profile - Helene Irving](#)
[Planning Meeting](#)
[Pool Session - Scheduled for Sunday February 5th](#)
[Calendar of Events](#)
[Financial State of WA State Parks](#)

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

The consequences of Fun - Paddling with your Kayak Club

Every year **Body Boat Blade** receives a half a dozen phone calls from clubs, or their members regarding leadership, incidences that have occurred, or risk assessment. In response to this they have developed a series of courses to help clubs develop safer practices. Club members struggle to come to a consensus on these issues to the frustration of many of it's members.

In this presentation we will be addressing the important issues of duty of care, risk assessment, and leadership management. These are all important issues that every paddler should be aware of and think about when paddling with a club, on their own, or with friends.

Through discussion of real incidences that have recently happened in the wider

kayaking community and the use of slides and video clips, this presentation will be thought provoking, engaging, and will contain important information for every paddler in the group, from the least experienced to the most. **Join us for a fun and informative evening.**

Shawna Franklin and Leon Sommé are co-owners of the award winning kayak school, Body Boat Blade International. Shawna and Leon have been working in the paddle sports industry for nearly 20 years as coaches and coach educators. They are enthusiastic paddlers with a true passion for the sport. A few of their more notable accomplishments include the circumnavigation of Iceland in 2003 with Chris Duff, and the circumnavigation of Haida Gwaii in 2007 with Justine Curgenvén, together Shawna and Leon circumnavigated Vancouver Island in 2011, and Leon's solo circumnavigation in 1997 of Vancouver Island.

Through their school and their passion for paddle sports they spend most days of their lives on the water. They have developed a wide range of experience to draw from when doing rescues or teaching skills.

This is sure to be an engaging and thought provoking presentation!

Check out their website:

www.bodyboatblade.com

Traditional New Year's Day Paddle

by Dave Church



Fifteen seawards calibrated the first day of Spring?? Well, it was a bright, warm (48F) calm (glassy?) New Years morning as we paddled north out of Fairhaven for brunch at the BaySide Café in Squalicum Harbor. We glided beneath the graceful new ballet dancer poised atop the Taylor Dock rock. Our gaggle of kayaks was the only thing moving on the bay.

The experience represented was awesome; 7 to 42 years of kayaking. Where were all you new kayakers on this beautiful spring day? Ten stayed for brunch while others resolved to fly to San Diego (misuse of resources). All paddled back to the Community Boating Center. The most arduous part of the day was the conflict between torso rotation and the 3-egg omelet just eaten.

WAKE Overnight at Lummi DNR Campsite December 16 - 17, 2011

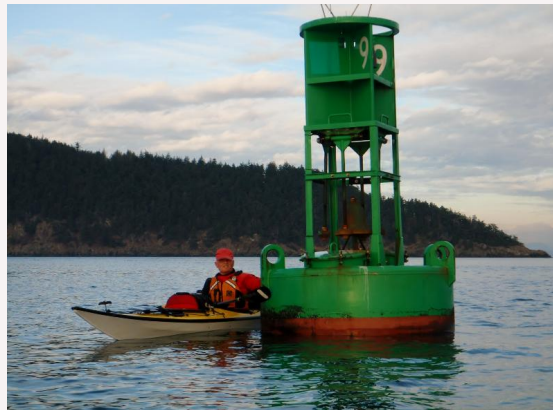
by Ed Alm

Gerardo bravely planned a December camping trip to the DNR camp on the south end of Lummi Island for the weekend just before Christmas. We all felt that a break from the Holiday rush would be nice. Three of us, Gerardo, Mac and Ed, met Saturday morning at Gooseberry Point. We timed our morning launch for slack current and were quickly on the water. The weather was in our favor with a mild north breeze pushing us to our destination. Gerardo guided us by the ferry that was quickly shuttling back and forth and we proceeded down and across Hale Passage. The 6 mile paddle down to the campsite was quick and uneventful. Gerardo pointed out an arch rock that I have never noticed before although I have traveled this route at least 20times.





We arrived at the camp to have it to ourselves. Lunch was the first order of business and then getting the tents set up. After a few chores we decided to do a little exploratory paddle down to Carter Point. Conditions were really pleasant and when we got to Carter Pt., Viti Rocks beckoned. The late winter afternoon lighting made for some interesting pictures.



I am a nut for visiting buoys so I just had to visit buoy 9 south of Viti rocks on our way back to camp.

We collected firewood provided by a windstorm a week earlier and got a warming fire going. Most of us then cooked our dinner before the early darkness fell. After dinner we had a pleasant time around the campfire for several hours. The weather forecast called for rain overnight but we were all in our tents before the rain arrived. By morning the rain had stopped and the wind was calm and Eliza Island was attracting me so I took off for a quick exploratory paddle over to Eliza and a visit to the navigation light on the south side of Eliza (did I mention I am a nut for buoys and such).

We packed up by noon and headed out. Unfortunately we were a little slow in getting going and as a result had to contend with an ebb current and a north wind. The wind was increasing all the time and by halfway back it was becoming work to make headway against it. We decided to cross Hale Passage over to Portage Island hoping to benefit from the lee of the island. No luck, the wind was just as strong there. We kept going only making about 2 knots, but we made it. The high wind was a challenge but having the ebb flow with us kept the waves down to manageable levels. We arrived back at Gooseberry tired but invigorated by a pleasant weekend outing.

Renew Your Membership Now for 2012!



Nothing like sharing the adventure with friends!

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!

This Month's profile is WAKE Program Coordinator and New Board Member: **Helene Irving**



Helene with friends on Yellow Island trip

Growing up on Southern California beaches, Helene gradually made her way north to Bellingham, stopping on the way at Humboldt State College in the Redwoods where she completed a degree in nursing. Moving to Reno, Helene enjoyed the mountains and hiking and then on a trip to Whistler she was enticed to enjoy both the mountains and water activities... thus Bellingham! She now lives in the Roosevelt neighborhood with her 85 year old mother nearby as well as her almost six year old grandson and dog Baker.

Helene's been kayaking for about 10 years after being given an incentive by safe kayaking friends: Whale Weekend on San Juan Island if she mastered wet exits and used a double kayak. Up to Thetis Island for the Kayak Symposium and she loved it. She joined WAKE to get out on the water more often, to meet other kayakers, and to learn, learn, learn. She's been a member for about 4 years and greatly appreciates the spirit of volunteerism, members helping members and having safe fun. Helene would love to learn to roll! She also wants to be able to help others enjoy the sport safely and would like to see more emphasis on appreciating the incredible experience the members themselves bring to the club. There is an enormous amount of volunteer hours put in by members of our kayaking community.

Helene's favorite trip so far has been the trip with Ed and Bonnie Alm to Yellow Island. She has many dreams of more kayak travels... Alaska, Mexico, Fiji, Patagonia, Vancouver Island...it goes on and on! Helene also really likes pulling things together. She looks forward to being the person who helps the "experienced-on-the-water-leader" put together a trip. Are you listening trip leaders?

As for other hobbies Helene enjoys hiking, whether out in the wilderness or in our own backyard. She also plays volleyball, has a ping pong table, enjoys making things, but it's the camaraderie that she thrives on. A perfect fit for WAKE!

****Meeting Location CHANGE****

2012 Trip Planning Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 25th @ 6:30pm
at Nicki's Bella Marina
2615 So. Harbor Loop Drive, 332-2505



Bring your charts and ideas!

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 Nicki's Bella Marina at 6:30pm!

For more information contact Jeff Irving at jeff@wakekayak.org

POOL SESSION - Scheduled for Sunday February 5th!

The Arne Hanna pool charges \$120. per hour. We have reserved it for 1-1/2 hours on Sunday February 5th between the hours of 11:30AM and 1:00PM. The cost for this session is \$15. per boat and two people may share one boat. In order for the Club to put this on, we will need at least six people to sign up and pay \$15. each at the next Club meeting on January 17. Subsequently, we will need an additional two people to sign up with payment before February 1. We need to limit the amount of boats to a maximum of ten because of space. Also, we are hoping that some of you more experienced paddlers will be willing to come and help us less experienced to learn new things or build on what we already know. There will be no charge for volunteers and there will probably be a free brew afterwards when we gather at a local pub to discuss what we have learned and wish to learn.

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 manuevers 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.

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.

Calendar of Events

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:

Meet at Community Boating Center boat launch. Work on skills, meet club members

in a fun casual setting! ***Please RSVP by 5pm the previous day with Ray for this session.***

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

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

Meet at Nicki's Bella Marina, 2615 South Marine Loop Drive in Squalicum Harbor

Contact person: Jeff Irving, jeff@wakekayak.org

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Demo Day/Gear Swap and WAKE Symposium!

Plans are already in the works for this year's big events. Please consider volunteering to help make these events better than ever and have fun doing it!

Saturday, May 5th: Demo Day/Gear Swap at Bloedel Donovan Beach and Pavilion Building.

Get ready to test drive a new kayak, check out new gear and visit with vendors from the region. You will also have the opportunity to sell some of your gear you may not be using anymore or pick up an item you need at a great price!

Saturday, June 23rd: WAKE Symposium at Lake Padden swim beach area.

The WAKE Symposium is a special event you don't want to miss! Offered to WAKE members exclusively, this is a perfect time to learn from experienced kayakers and each other. More information on this to come!

****Lake Padden Car Break-In Alert!****

FYI:

On a recent morning a friend went down to walk around Lake Padden and when she got back one window was shattered and her pack/purse and iPad were gone.

The police who came to take the report said it happens a lot. Apparently they hang out in the trees or in a tinted window car and watch people come and go.

Be cautious about leaving personal items in your car! If you can, just leave it at home or lock it in the trunk.

Financial State of Washington State Parks

A Message from the Chairman Peter Reid - Interim Chair of Washington State Parks Foundation

Dear Friends of State Parks,

While our system of State Parks is a tremendous natural, recreational and cultural asset to all of us, local "friends" groups are an equally important asset to the parks. Most "friends" groups focus on a single park and undertake a range of activities to support that park. Such groups recruit and oversee volunteers, raise money for the park, repair and upgrade equipment, trails and interpretive centers, develop websites to publicize activities in the park, operate a store at the park, hold events there, and much more.

Some "friends" have been organized and active for many years, while others are relatively new and just building their infrastructure. Washington State Parks Foundation recognizes the importance of "friends" and has been working to find ways to support them and help them to develop. As State Parks faces the need to generate funds through sales of the Discover Pass, "friends" groups will become even more important partners in generating

support for parks, helping market the Discover Pass, recruiting volunteers, and generating funds to improve their local park. See John Floberg's report below for more information on the initiative.

If you are interested in establishing a "friends" group or need help moving your group to the next level, you may want to speak with one of the panel members. We can help make the transition easier. Contact information for the panel can be found on the Foundation website. www.wspf.org <http://www.wspf.org>.

The \$30 Discover Pass is now the prime source of funding for State Parks; only a small amount of State Funding to assist in the transition will be available. Thus far, sales of the Discover Pass are generating less funding than had been predicted, and the predicted level already envisioned a reduction in funding for Parks. We hope all of you who care about and enjoy state parks have bought or will buy a Discover Pass, and that you will urge your friends and relatives to purchase Passes as well. You might want to buy a Pass as a gift for a friend or relative. An icon on the Foundation website will link you to purchase information or you can get the information directly on State Parks website. www.discoverpass.wa.gov <<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov>> .

One complaint about the Discover Pass derives from the current requirement that a Pass be obtained for each car a person will use in a park. State Parks' staff are aware of this issue, and The Foundation has been working with the State Parks and the legislature to revise this provision and to allow a Pass to be used with more than one family vehicle. The legislature will likely take up this issue during the special session in early December, and by the time you read this newsletter, the matter may be resolved.

Washington State Parks Foundation offers an excellent means for you to make a tax deductible donation to help maintain and improve our parks. Please consider making a donation at this time to assist us in meeting the current funding crisis, by visiting www.wspf.org <http://www.wspf.org>

What is your Favorite State Park?

We've been asking this question for the past year, and the answers confirm that we have one heck of a park system ... beaches, forests, lakes and shorelines. We all have a favorite and there is a park just for you. In fact, the survey is the most visited page on our website at: <http://washingtonstateparksfoundation.org/state-parks-survey>

What is reassuring is that around 103 out of 116 State Parks have been mentioned at least once; and the most popular, Deception Pass, Fort Flagler, Grayland Beach, and Cape Disappointment, are mentioned by no more than 2-4% of those taking our survey.

Sincerely,

Peter Reid,
Interim Chair
Washington State Parks Foundation

Interim Chair report 11/25/11

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