



April, 2006

Volume 25 Issue 4

APRIL 18, WAKE MEETING FEATURES:

DALE MCKINNON — AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN, AN EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE

DOWNTOWN BELLINGHAM LIBRARY

DOORS OPEN 7:00 MEETING STARTS 7:30

Bellingham's own Dale McKinnon is speaking about her 800-Mile journey from Ketchikan, Alaska to Fairhaven, Washington *in a rowboat*. Dale's incredible feat of endurance and dedication makes for great storytelling and some beautiful images. This is a presentation you won't want to miss.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Ted Ullman

What a beautiful two days we've had in Bellingham, makes me dream of summer. And what a fine summer this will be to do some paddling and skills building. There are learning opportunities: the swap/demo, trips (though we could use some more) and the Positive Paddle Festival in Anacortes.

Now on the less fun but a very important side of WAKE...insurance. The issue of insurance has been of great concern to many members since I joined WAKE 4 years ago. It is important to support the trip leaders and the board with adequate insurance in these days of capricious litigation. Norm Nielsen has done a great job of scouting out a good policy and I think he has found one that will work well for us. (See his article later in the newsletter.) We have kept our dues at a very low level and the increases from insurance will not be very large. I hope you will join me in supporting the board in voting for buying club insurance at our next meeting.

Back on the cherry side, please pay your dues. Also make sure you have the **Swap Meet/Demo Day** on your calendar, May 6th at Bloedel Donovan.

Please consider and vote for The Greenways Levy as we need broad community support to continue this great Bellingham tradition. So stop talking, reading and start paddling, and if you get tired, think of Brandon Nelson on Lake Whatcom, go man go!

WAKE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

WAKE NEWS & COMMUNICATION

YES BAY LODGE PRESENTATION

By Alan Paxman

A 20 minute video presentation by Alan Paxman and John Browning will be offered at the meeting on April 18th about a unique kayaking adventure. Hear about Yes Bay Lodge, 50 miles by float plane, outside of Ketchikan Alaska. Ship your own kayak and gear safely and securely at the lodges expense, and spend three days and four nights paddling some of the most pristine interior waters of Southeast Alaska. Then spend the evenings in the comfort of the lodge. All meals included.

INSURANCE FOR WAKE

By Norm Nielsen

At the WAKE Board's request last year, local attorney and surfskier, Simon Brownlie, reviewed WAKE's documents and practices to evaluate WAKE's potential liability exposure. Among other findings, Mr. Brownlie advised insurance covering Trip Initiators. The logic behind his recommendation was that:

1. In today's legal environment the Club's assets and more significantly the Board members' and Trip Initiators' personal assets are at risk in the event of an injury or death, and;
2. The Club's not having insurance is a disincentive for people to volunteer to be on the Board or to initiate trips.

The only club insurance the WAKE Board found last year (through the American Canoe Association) was unacceptable to club members because of its cost and administrative burden. The WAKE Board pursued its insurance quest over the past year and finally obtained a quote from St. Paul Travelers we think acceptable at \$1,434 per year with no administrative burden such as ensuring that all trip participants are WAKE members (i.e., guests are welcome). Coverage would be:

- \$1,000,000 per event limit
- \$2,000,000 general total limit
- \$1,000,000 personal injury per person limit
- \$100,000 premises damage limit
- \$5,000 medical expenses limit.

The Board, at its April 4th meeting, voted to present a motion to the April 18th general membership meeting that WAKE obtain this insurance. To pay for the insurance, the Board proposes to raise membership dues to \$25 per household in 2006 and to \$30 per household in 2007. People electing to receive mailed newsletters would pay an additional \$5 per year to cover copying and postage. Thus we would phase in membership dues increases over two years to cover the additional annual insurance and ever-rising newsletter expenses.

We urge you to consider this motion beforehand and come to the April 18th general meeting to discuss the pros and cons of obtaining insurance.

PEOPLE FOR PUGET SOUND is looking for volunteer kayakers to assist in developing a protocol for invasive weeds kayak surveys in Skagit, San Juan and Whatcom Counties. If you are interested in being involved in this stewardship project or for more information, please contact Amanda Mintz amintz@pugetsound.org, or (360) 336-1931.

Thank you!

Amanda Mintz

Habitat Restoration Intern

People for Puget Sound, North Sound Office

407 Main St. #201

Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

(360) 336-1931 amintz@pugetsound.org

WAKE SUPPORTS QUEST FOR PADDLING RECORD

By Dawn Groves

By the time you read this newsletter, it is likely that Brandon and Heather Nelson will have successfully completed their goal of paddling nonstop 144 miles for 24 hours on Lake Whatcom. Brandon Nelson is the paddler and his wife, Heather, (an endurance athlete herself) is handling the ground crew and considerable logistics for the event. The Nelson's hope to break the Guinness Flatwater paddling world record and raise 10 thousand dollars for Whatcom Hospice in the process. Located at WWU Lakewood on Lake Whatcom, the event is generating national buzz and WAKE is smack dab in the middle of it. Four board members are serving as judges, number of key volunteer positions, and donating to the cause. Brandon and Heather will be featured speakers at the June 20 WAKE membership meeting.

THE PERFECT END TO WINTER: A LUMMI ISLAND PADDLE

By Robert Kandiko

Darkness recedes before the eyes open, revealing the jagged outlines of the mountains over the bay. Pancakes fuel the appetite of adventure as the sun bursts over the peak of South Twin sending a lazerbeam of gold across the mirror waters of Portage Bay. Squeaky wheels announce our departure as frost melts on glistening blades of grass. Most of the world still sleeps as we caress the morning seas with gentle strokes up Hales Passage. 180 degree views of snow covered peaks make our present latitude seem too low as geese honk and loons do what loons do, sending resonant echoes from shore to shore. Harlequins flirt and eagles prowl as seals slither below the silvery surface. Point Migley opens up the western view of endless islands and the tide turns in our favor. A tanker cruises south as 3 chip barges slog north, both oblivious to our sojourn towards spring. Village Point almost catapults us south with the gathering rip as the shimmering crest of the Olympics soar into view. A pair of eagles welcome us to the austere geology of Lummi Rocks. The snooze in the sun refreshes but the warmth slows momentum, but today is the last day of the long winter, so we savor the heat and linger a bit longer. Green shoots foretell bright blossoms on the way but the chill of this March has held the Vernal spirit in check. Waters of surreal colors pull us back into boats as the tides continues its pull towards the Pacific. Each tree stands out in the crisp clarity of the day as the steep shoreline races by. All too fast the south tip is rounded leaving the allure of the western islands for another longer trip. DNR is empty as we nestle in for another snooze. The kelp bends north signaling our departure. The low tide lingers forcing us to detour past our desired route but arms still held the strength for the push of boats up the driveway on the same squeaky wheels. A day of countless little memories, each holding the promise of adventures on longer, warmer days. Tomorrow the sun passes over the equator for its six month visit to our hemisphere. Today was the perfect appetizer for the next course.

HELP PASS THE GREENWAYS LEVY

By John Watts

Here's important information for you to know, plus an appeal to get neighborhood volunteers involved in a short campaign for the May 16 ballot date. We'll need to move on this issue quickly to insure that funding to continue the Greenways levy for another 10 years. Please spread this information to those you know who want to help.

Vote for Green * May 16 * Vote GREENWAYS BELLINGHAM TREASURES ITS PARKS, TRAILS, AND HABITAT

The Greenways Levy will create a balanced distribution of parks, trails, and natural habitat to serve our many needs and will continue at the same rate as the current levy, which ends this year - 57 cents per \$1000 of assessed value for 10 years.

Contact Greenways Campaign at (360) 671-0131, or <greenwayscampaign@gmail.com> to see how you can help.

WAKE EASY PADDLES

WAKE Easy Paddle March 4, 2006

By Erin

Six intrepid souls arrived at Bloedel-Donovan Park at 9:00 sharp on Saturday, March 4 for WAKE's first-ever "easy paddle."

Lisa was first to arrive at the swimming area, probably out of eagerness to get her new boat wet. Alas, she neglected to bring the tiny bottle of bubbly that should accompany such an event. Erin was next to show, Carol and Ted followed soon after, and when that foursome drove to the boat launch area, they discovered John already with his kayak tied up at the float. Scott then completed the group.

After the usual donning of gear (and it seemed everybody had lots of gear to don,) we launched and gathered briefly. Ted, our fearless leader, spoke a few words about loose hips and staying reasonably together. We introduced ourselves, and were off with the blessing of a Bald Eagle sitting high atop a tree watching as we headed South into the Wind.

Erin found it somewhat disquieting that there is a rather noticeable sign at the launch area that reads "NO WAKE." "A prohibition against a specific kayak club," she mused, but Carol assured her that it had something to do with motorboats.

The weather was sunny, cloudy, and windy, but reasonably temperate for early March. Ted mentioned that his presence all but assures good weather. Good to know.

We headed South towards Strawberry Point, following the west shoreline. The wind was surprisingly strong, and in our faces. Ted herded us closer to shore, and then we re-gathered in a sheltered bay. Ted led a discussion of "who has been on an overnight kayak trip, and where?" He (Queen Charlottes) and Carol (Saddlebag Island, Barkley Sound) and Scott (Salmon River) shared experiences.

When we got cold, we set off again down the lake, where paddling into the wind warmed us up quickly. After another paddling interval, Ted suggested we take a few minutes and paddle various directions with and against the waves, just for the exercise of seeing how our boats respond. We did so. Then he led a game of follow the leader, and took us between floats, under a dock, around a swim platform, and backward toward the lake. We did not have any contests pitting the three red boats against the three yellow ones, but maybe that's because nobody thought of it at the time.

A discussion was held, and the consensus was that it was time to head back, although John thought we should make for the island. (A quick check of a map later revealed that the island is halfway to Skagit County, almost. Perhaps a good activity for another day.) We did head back, commenting that the wind would make it a quick trip.

We beached the kayaks at the swimming area, talked, drank various hot beverages, and eventually dispersed. It had been a good morning of low-impact paddling with good company. Skill levels ranged from novice to advanced, and kayak lengths from 13.5' to 17'. Nobody got left behind, or got wet. We were on the lake for about 2 ½ hours. It was indeed an easy paddle, and fun also. It was great to meet other "beginners", to see friendly faces from WAKE and enjoy the tranquility of being on the water.



Island Outfitters

2403 Commercial Ave., Anacortes, WA

WAKE April Fools Easy Paddle

By Dawn Groves

Ten kayakers enjoyed a rainy April Fool's morning in Blaine, gliding through the Semiahmoo Marina and forging some unexpected chop in the middle of Drayton Harbor. Easy paddles are by definition not supposed to be choppy but hey, that's why we wear PFDs. The next WAKE Easy Paddle will be on Sunday, May 7. Check the website schedule for details.



Photo by Dawn Groves

WAKE'S MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



Photo by Dawn Groves

WAKE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

MAIL CHECK TO WAKE: P.O. BOX 1952, BELLINGHAM, WA 98227.

ANNUAL 2006 MEMBERSHIP IS \$20 PER HOUSEHOLD. **Check here for newsletter mailing:** _____

ENJOY OUR ON-LINE NEWSLETTER AT: www.wakekayak.org

Leave No Trace Sea Kayaking Master Educator Course

June 1 - 5, Good Shepherd Center in Seattle and San Juan Islands

Leave No Trace Sea Kayaking Trainer Course

June 17 - 18, Anderson Island (South Puget Sound)

Contact: Bromley Henningsen (206) 545-9161 bromley@wwta.org or www.wwta.org/lnt/trainer.asp

Mercia will be leading a superb free clinic on July 15th at Lake Padden 10:00. For intermediate and advanced paddlers. fun guaranteed! register with tedullman@hotmail.com



 

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WAKE CALENDAR OF EVENTS *& other items of interest.*

WAKE VOYAGES REQUIRE A SIGNED TRIP RELEASE FORM AT LAUNCH.

TRIP RELEASE FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM www.wakekayak.org

WE REQUEST YOU TO BE A CURRENT WAKE MEMBER TO JOIN IN WAKE PADDLING EVENTS.

EVERY SATURDAY: Short paddles in the Bellingham area, beginners are always welcome. Destinations are determined by the skill level and interest of whomever shows up, and of course - by our weather.

THIS IS NOT A WAKE SPONSORED EVENT - Meets at Sehome Village Starbucks @ 9:00AM.

APRIL 22 - 2006 FLARE SHOOT-OFF: BLAINE - Start time is TBA. Details at (360) 332-1918 and www.westmarine.com

APRIL 30 DIRTY DAN CHALLENGE REGATTA: FAIRHAVEN...fairhaven.com/annual/dirtydandays/2006.html#rowing.

MAY 6 WAKE SWAP MEET/DEMO DAY: BLOEDEL-DONOVAN PARK— Equipment for sale & trade—new & used.

MAY 7— WAKE EASY PADDLE: Information forthcoming.

MAY 13 - SKI TO SEA RACE COURSE PRACTICE: Steady slow pace paddle. Roger Lamb at rlamb@pacbell.net

MAY 13 & 14 - BODY BOAT & BLADE TRAINING: LAKE PADDEN 9:AM TO 4:PM (FULL)

MAY 20-21 30—PUGET SOUND SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM: TACOMA—Details at: www.metroparkstacoma.org/kayaksymposium

MAY 26—29 WAKE SEHELT INLET TRIP: Trip Rating:---Skill level 2. Details contact: patschke@dowco.com.

JUNE 24 — WAKE MINI SYMPOSIUM: Information forthcoming.

JULY 1 — EVERGREEN AIDS FOUNDATION 2006 BENEFIT PADDLE: ANNACORTES—Details: wendy@evergreenaids.org

JULY 15 — FREE CLINIC BY MERCIA: LAKE PADDEN 10:AM - Register with tedullman@hotmail.com



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400 36th Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)647-8955

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www.wakekayak.org

WAKE

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Photo by Dawn Groves