



W.A.K.E.

WHATCOM ASSOCIATION OF KAYAK ENTHUSIASTS



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Volume 25 Issue 8

OCTOBER 17, WAKE MEETING FEATURES:

GEORGE DYSON

SEA KAYAKING: THE FIRST 10,000 YEARS

Author, engineer, scientific historian and iconoclast George Dyson, is one of Bellingham's resident celebrities. He is the son of physicist Freeman Dyson, the brother of Internet futurist Esther Dyson, and the grandson of English composer Sir George Dyson. He authored *Project Orion: The Atomic Spaceship 1957-1965*; *Baidarka the Kayak*; and *Darwin Among the Machines*. He is also the subject of Kenneth Brower's book *The Starship and the Canoe*.

After Dyson moved to Bellingham, he founded Dyson, Baidarka & Company, a designer of Aleut-style skin kayaks. His revolutionary plans and kits for do-it-yourselfers are very popular and he is credited with the revival of the Baidarka design.

Next month our speakers are Karen Holm, and Rob Walker, uber-paddlers who spent six month traversing Chile's southern channels.

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DOORS OPEN 7:00 MEETING STARTS 7:30

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Ted Ullman

My, October is here, too late to kayak? I say no!

It is the best time of the year and I will prove it on our Gulf Islands trip. It's time to show what we north west-erners are made of. Time to propagate the moss between your fingers, and no better way than paddling.

The moon was spectacular on the hunter's moon out on Bellingham Bay. So, I hope you don't put your kayaks away yet (we still have the New Year's Day paddle to look forward to). How about a nice sunny winter paddle on Baker Lake? Let's have a little spirit of adventure.

For those who like to talk about, or listen to kayak stories we have a few great meetings coming up this month and next, then the Christmas/solstice party. It's a little early this year on December 1st., but it's a good way to

start the month by eating a lot with friends.

We are having board elections coming up. Would anyone like to join us on the board for the next year? It is a fun group of folks and we share the work so no one is over-burdened. If you're interested, contact me by email.

I want to give a big thank you to Norm Nielsen, for all the work he has done for WAKE through the past four years, especially seeing though the club insurance issue. He has been the past president, secretary and treasurer. He has gone way above and beyond what a normal person would even conceive of to resolve this issue. Norm, you're not only a great kayaker, but a hard working and selflessly giving dude.

KEEP ON PADDLING!

OCTOBER EASY PADDLE, SMOOTH AS SILK

The October Easy Paddle started with a little drizzle and ended with breaking sun and coffee. Dave Harris, Kathy McGee and her buddy Phil, Tara McDonald, Reg Lake, Dawn Groves, Dan Barrett, and Mac Carter put in at Lakewood on Lake Whatcom and headed east. The water couldn't have been more placid, displaying a metallic sheen that perfectly reflected boats and sky. Reg was testing his elegant new cedar strip boat with the fancy magnetic skeg. (He promised the rest of us that he wouldn't exceed eight knots. Fortunately, he didn't.) We paddled past the Firs campground and Sudden Valley, then turned back, crossed to the North Shore, and attempted to surf a few anemic boat wakes. But the lack of environmental excitement didn't diminish our pleasure in paddling together. We had a delightful morning. The event officially concluded at the Barkley's Starbucks with lots of interest in paddling the Nooksack once the rains return. The next Easy Paddle will likely occur on Sunday, November 5th; however, the exact date will be determined closer to the end of October. Updates will be posted on the WAKE listserv.

WARM FRIENDS, COOL PRIZES, GREAT FOOD: THE TRI-CLUB PICNIC

By Dawn Groves

Summer's warmth held strong for the September Tri-club picnic at Bowman Bay. The picnic is a combined effort of North Sound Sea Kayakers Association (NSSKA), Hole in the Wall (HITWall), and Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts (WAKE), all sharing setup responsibilities. Dubside -- the black knight of Greenland paddling -- opened the festivities with his ever-popular rolling demonstration. Hampered by a low tide, he was occasionally forced to move way out from the crowd in order to execute some of his maneuvers. After Dubside wowed us, Tom Banks and Marianne Majerus from HITWall lead an enthusiastic group of paddlers through several competitive kayak games. One of the most memorable sights was Dubside standing akimbo atop two moving kayaks (John Groves and John Calvin), easily riding them like a rodeo stunt man. That guy has some serious balance. Kayak games were followed by a huge potluck spread of fresh chili, lasagna, warm casseroles, salads of every kind, several breads, sushi, cakes and cookies, and crudité's. There were approximately sixty folks at this picnic and nobody went home hungry. Donna Vanderriend led a spirited raffle for some fine swag donated by Island Outfitters, Werner, Johnson Outdoors, Dubside, and NSSKA. Roger Lamb won the coveted Island Outfitters' Reed paddling jacket and sprayskirt. Once lunch settled and the raffle concluded, Dubside provided a demonstration of his Greenland rope prowess and offered audience members the opportunity to try it themselves. Marianne did herself proud with some well executed turns, as did a few other brave folks. The picnic concluded with a kayak flotilla paddling into the afternoon sun. The happy group headed north out the bay, enjoying all that makes Puget Sound sea-kayaking so rewarding: miles of saltwater, a rocky coastline, warm air, plenty of paddling partners, and nature glistening at the tip of a blade.

WAKE INSURANCE REINSTATED!

By Norm Nielsen

Good news from WAKE's insurance agent Mike Kohout in Seattle. St. Paul's Travelers reinstated our insurance with no lapse. For those of you not at the September meeting, St. Paul's sent WAKE a cancellation notice in early September because we "do not have certified guides." Evidently St. Paul's lumped WAKE into the same insurance risk pool as whitewater outfitters -- hardly a good match. St. Paul's is charging WAKE \$281 per year more for our insurance. We have yet to get a definition of what criteria St. Paul's considers to constitute "certified guides" either on the "certified" or the "guide" side. Four insurance-related things I learned at last month's West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium and applicable to WAKE were:

- Liability waiver forms protect an organization about 50 percent of the time -- liability forms should be backed up with insurance.
- The reason liability waiver forms only work about 50 percent of the time is that too often they are signed at the start of an event when an individual has not had time to adequately understand the form. It is best if the liability waiver form is signed prior to an event.
- It is a good idea for clubs to have regular safety-related presentations and to document the presentations in meeting minutes.
- It is a good idea for trip initiators and trainers to be current in first aid training, in particular in Wilderness First Responder training or an equivalent (e.g., The Mountaineers' MOFA training). Thus WAKE's policy of having members sign liability forms when they join the club is smart. WAKE could do a better job at having safety-related presentations at the monthly meetings. As a club, we should also sponsor first aid training.

TRIP WAIVER REMINDER....

We're told that the WAKE trip waiver is only valid when time is given to actually read it. This means that if you show up for a trip and quickly sign it, your insurance company can still take us to the cleaners. Fortunately, the solution is pretty easy. Simply bring the signed trip waiver with you to any WAKE-sponsored paddle. Either that or arrive very early and read aloud all of the clauses to one of the trip initiators.



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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.

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WAKE

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