



# W.A.K.E.

WHATCOM ASSOCIATION OF KAYAK ENTHUSIASTS



September, 2006

Volume 25 Issue 7

## SEPTEMBER 19, WAKE MEETING FEATURES:

### REG LAKE AND CHRIS BURKHART

Reg and Chris have paddled some of the most beautiful and challenging places on Earth. Both are skilled photographers, paddlers, and presenters. Come enjoy their slides and kayak stories about the Queen Charlottes, the Grand Canyon, South America, Western USA, Pakistan, and much more.

Next month our speaker will be George Dyson.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By Ted Ullman

With heavy hearts we say goodbye to Summer. See you next year old buddy, it was great, but now we have to move on to fall...and with a sense of relief we welcome the fall, so we can slow down our frantic pace and gracefully move into winter. To mark this transition, we look forward to our first fall WAKE meeting on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> in which we can enjoy seeing a slide presentation from one of our most adventurous members, Reg Lake.

Not only has Reg kayaked in a myriad of awesome places, but he has the ability to take equally great photos of those places. Come one come all, invite a friend, bring your kids. This meeting also will be a good opportunity to see friends, talk of personal adventures we engaged in this past season, and of new friendships we have made.

In looking back, I remember great seminars (many thanks to all our instructors, especially Chris Mitchell), fun WAKE paddles, and trips. There are still have a few paddles to look forward to: the N.W. Kayak Symposium in Port Townsend (Sept. 15-17), and the Tri Club Picnic on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bowman Bay.

One personal request I have: I think we should all remember that the mix of paddlers in Bellingham and our club is evolving to include a lot more paddlers who are new to the sport. I think it's especially important to make these folks feel at home and accepted in our paddling community. Please think outside the lineal, goal oriented box of paddling. I personally like to do sprints, circles and other strategies to burn off some energy so the beginning paddlers don't feel they are "too slow" and "holding up" the group. Also, it is very reassuring to the newbies, in our sport, to have a good paddler nearby.

We've had great WAKE board meetings in which I have made good and lasting friends. Come join us at our next board meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and add your energy as a potential new board member or volunteer helper. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> and the picnic on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## KEEP ON PADDLING!

## WASHINGTON'S PACIFIC COAST IN ELEVEN DAYS

By Roger Lamb

My friend from out of state, Mike Higgins, e-mailed last winter and suggested we explore the length of the Washington ocean coast. We launched on August 7, 2006 from Neah Bay on the Juan de Fuca Strait. Sue Wood, had agreed to pick us up at the southern end in ten or twelve days.

Saw porpoise's everyday, but on the northern half of our state's coast we saw lots of marine animals; humpback and gray whales, sea otters, a horned puffin, a monk seal, sea lions and eagles. Our state's northern coast line is full of huge caves, fjords, sea stacks, and islets; we explored almost all of them.

Chose to do our trip from the north because the 3 to 8 foot swells all day, each day, would come from the northwest, giving a favorable shove on the stern quarter. We each liked to move at our own rhythm over the water, so sometimes we paddled next to each other, and sometimes a mile apart, catching glimpses when both were on wave crests. Kept "line of sight."

Had one foggy day; 50 foot visibility. Launched into the fog and surf that morning; once at sea, we paddled south by compass, staying two miles off shore for 20 miles (Mike looked at his GPS every hour), then turned to the east at the correct place and as if by magic, the booming north break-water for Greys Harbor suddenly appeared. For 6 ½ hours that day, we had seen nothing but porpoises, and each other. On day 10 we accidentally traveled solo. It was our second to last and longest day: 25 miles. When we left camp at 7:30 that morning, it was a very hard struggle paddling out to deep water through about ten incoming 5-6' waves that broke over the two mile wide sandy shoal just south of Willapa Bay. Mike and I got visually separated penciling through the face of the first breaker. Each of us made it out past the zone to the calmer outer water at different places (surfing back in over that shoal was not an option). As planned we separately waited for one hour, periodically sounding our emergency whistles before continuing on south. Neither of us heard the other's whistle or saw one another from the wave tops. Happily we met up again on land at our next planned camp, ten hours later, but not until after I experienced part of the trip that caused me some trepidation, that was coming into the *Columbia River Opening*.

It's north lip is called Cape Disappointment, and I can see why. We planned this last surf landing and camp for the beach just south of the cliff and lighthouse, where the rocky point "should" block the NW swell. To my disappointment, the swells still rolled in from the NW at full force, and I would have to land because it was already 5:30 pm and I was hoping to meet Mike. I rested outside the surf line in my boat, watching the wave sets, building up nerve for this landing, and wondering where my friend was. Out of the blue, a huge wave came from behind, picked up the stern of my 18' Mariner II, shoved it forward "pitch-poling" it. Had my paddle lying across the cockpit while I was vaulted over and down into the water in front of the wave. The ensuing crush of water that landed on my keel snapped the carbon paddle shaft on the gunwale. Managed to hold my breath, and stay in the boat through the expected Maytag cycle, then failed on an Eskimo roll attempt with my half paddle. After the thunder and confusion ended, I let the remaining breakers push me, still in my capsized boat, to shallow water, then happily climbed out on welcome sand. Lucky, I had a spare paddle for the next (and last) day, the trip, to our final destination.

Except for my carbon paddle, the whole trip went well and we landed at our planned take-out, the town of Ilwaco on the Columbia River right on schedule, after eleven paddle days, and ten beach camps. Averaged 18.18 miles a day, short mileage days towards the north where the coastline is beautiful, and long mileage days in the south half because we were used to long hours of paddling, and the coast is mostly sand and surf.

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## THE ANNUAL TRI-CLUB PICNIC

The Tri-Club Picnic (WAKE, HITWall, and NSSKA) is happening on Saturday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 AM, at Bowman Bay. The picnic will start with Greenland kayak demonstrations, followed by paddling games. (Dress for immersion.) Game participants will receive raffle tickets for gifts donated by local outfitters. A potluck lunch is scheduled at 1:00 PM during which time the raffle will be held. Please bring your own beverages and a delicious dish to share with others. WAKE and HITWall are supplying cups, plates, etc. After lunch, folks are encouraged to enjoy an optional paddle. If you have swap meet items, there will be a designated area where you can leave your priced item with an envelope for payment. This picnic is always a good time, rain or shine. Even if you're not a paddler, please come anyway. The games are really fun to watch and the food is excellent. Friends, family, dogs – all are welcome. For specific questions, contact the following folks:

Swap Meet: Ted Ullman, tedullman@hotmail.com

Raffle: Donna Vandergrind, donnavandergrind@wwu.edu

Supplies: Roger Lamb, rlamb@pacbell.net

Games: Tom Banks, tomjbanks@yahoo.com

Anything Else: Dawn Groves, dawn@dawngroves.com

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## WAKE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.wakekayak.org)

### 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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<b>Ted Ullman</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>360-220-0044</b>	<b>tedullman@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Roger Lamb</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>360-738-4652</b>	<b>rlamb@pacbell.net</b>
<b>Ed Alm</b>	<b>VP Membership</b>	<b>360-383-9139</b>	<b>ealm@comcast.net</b>
<b>Janet Miller</b>	<b>VP Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>360-756-6643</b>	<b>janet@lifestylephotographics.com</b>
<b>Norm Nielsen</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>360-647-2531</b>	<b>nordicnorm@comcast.net</b>
<b>Norm Nielsen</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>360-647-2531</b>	<b>nordicnorm@comcast.net</b>
<b>Margen Riley</b>	<b>New Member Liaison</b>	<b>360-647-1160</b>	<b>margenb@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Lisa Wallis</b>	<b>Lummi DNR</b>		
	<b>Campsite Liaison</b>	<b>360-756-7553</b>	<b>lmwallis@hinet.org</b>
<b>Holly Hinman</b>	<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>360-305-7467</b>	<b>hhinman@comcast.net</b>
<b>Dawn Groves</b>	<b>Training Coordinator/ Speaker Scheduler</b>	<b>360-738-3617</b>	<b>dawn@dawngroves.com</b>
	<b>Trip Coordinator—open</b>		

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## WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts  
P.O. Box 1952  
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