



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



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A Message from your Board *By Kristi Hug*

It was a dark and stormy night and last minute chaos ruled the earth. Well, actually it was another beautiful fall day, but the last minute chaos part is true.

The board met for their October meeting at Kristi's house. After a late started dinner (sorry!) we got down to business. Richard and Tom have agreed to go over the by-laws with a fine toothed comb to make them more in line with our current practices. Recommendations for changes will be forthcoming, and will be voted on by the general membership at a future club meeting. There will be two board positions vacant for 2004 so bring your nominees to the December holiday potluck. Speaking of the

potluck, it will be on Saturday, December 6th. We will meet at the Lake Samish County Park day lodge at 6:00 p.m. Ham and turkey will be provided by the club. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We will be conducting some

October 21st club meeting Fairhaven Library

Andy Bridge will give a slide show on kayaking across Borneo (see page 2)
Doors open at 7 meeting starts 7:30

brief club business, such as electing the 2004 board. There will be a silent auction of goods donated by local businesses. This is a major fundraiser for the club, and is always a fun evening and a place to get great items, too. Mark this date on your calendar to wind up 2003 and prepare for 2004. meeting.

Our Mission Statement:

To further the enjoyment, knowledge, and safety of kayaking by providing training, a wide variety of trips, and social events to our members and the general public.

"No one goes hungry on a WAKE trip"

WWW.WAKEKAYAK.ORG

Andy Bridge kayaking across Borneo

Biography

Andy Bridge is Director of Research and Development at Werner Paddles where he has worked for the past three years. Some of his designs include the Kalliste, new Ikelos, Frolic, and Werner's Neutral Bent Shaft for touring. He also designed their new patent pending Adjustable Ferrule System.

Andy has been paddling all types of boats for over 30 years and is a 9 time U.S. Whitewater Team member and 1992 World Cup Champion. He has also participated in river exploration of

Baffin Island, Newfoundland, and Borneo. More recently he has been sea kayaking Canada's West Coast and testing paddle ideas.

Presentation Description

The Trans Borneo Whitewater Challenge was a five-man team that successfully used rivers to cross the tropical island of Borneo. In doing so they visited the isolated Iwan and Kayan river valleys. The journey was over 600 total miles and used modern kayaks, backpacks, and traditional longboats.

News from Washington Water Trails check out their website at <http://www.wwta.org/>

Cascadia Marine Trail

New Site on Hood Canal! Trust for Public Land's Laughlin Cove is now open for public use. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) purchased the property to save it from further development. The property will be transferred to Kitsap County Park Department in the future. This site must be reserved through WWTA by calling the office (206.545.9161)

New Site at Potlatch State Park! One of three new sites on Hood Canal, Potlatch State Park can act as a base for paddlers wanting to explore the Great Bend of Hood Canal or the Skokomish River estuary. With camping and picnic facilities, the park extends for 9,570 feet of shoreline.

New Site at Triton Cove State Park! One of three new sites on Hood Canal, Triton Cove

State Park was once a privately operated RV park. It is a popular day use boat ramp. During shrimp season the days may start very early in the morning. Busy Highway 101 borders the upland portion so you will want to use the handily placed vegetation to place a tent to reduce traffic noise.

Oak Bay County Park - Fires are no longer allowed at this site and the fee has gone up to \$10 per group.

State Park Fees - The fees for overnight camping at State Park sites have changed and are different from those listed in The Cascadia Marine Trail Guidebook. The fee is now \$10 a day for each group of up to 6 campers. *These fees replace the permit system that was in place in the past.*

W.A.K.E. is whatever floats your boat

“My People! My People!...”

By Kristi Hug

...my dogs seem to say as I pull in the driveway. It doesn't matter if I've been gone on a two-week kayak trip or if I ran to the corner store, they are consistent in their happiness when I return.

It takes time to build these bonds with dogs. Each day they learn more about us and we learn more about them. We learn what they like to eat, where they like to nap in the sun and they learn they are NOT allowed to eat things off the tables and counters!

With people, I think it takes even a little more time. With a family pet, you see them everyday. It is unfortunately not the case with our kayaking friends. If we're lucky, we see each other a few times a month.

When I first joined WAKE, I was interested in meeting people to paddle with, doing more kayaking and taking some longer trips. I was also interested in improving my kayaking skills and comfort with my boat. In the beginning, I went on some of the club trips, not sure which trips or people fit my style. When I walked into my first WAKE meeting, I knew exactly one person.

Through the years, I just kept showing up to different events, meeting more paddlers, learning, and before I knew it...I found “my people.” I understood how my dogs felt. I found the group

of friends that share a similar style of kayaking, camping, and sense of humor.

These friends have watched me try to string a tarp by myself in the rain, before I had my coffee. The poles fell over 3 or 4 times before anyone stopped laughing long enough to help. (And then make me coffee.) I have seen Elvis and a gorilla fit inside a kayak, and a folding love seat fit on the back deck. Just goes to show, the more you are out there, the more you'll see.

On the dark side of kayaking, I've seen beach glass addiction take another 4 or 5 victims, and wicked bocce ball games, where a 6-year-old kid figured out how to cheat to win. On a lighter note, I've seen amazing sunsets, the planet Mars at it's closest to Earth, up close wildlife (sometimes too close!) and waited in many a ferry line. Good thing I was traveling with “my people” to share these experiences.

If you are new to the area, new to kayaking, new to WAKE or just ready to spend a little more time on the water just remember to keep paddling. It takes time to build these bonds ... not just with dogs, but also between people. You too will find your people. Besides, most of the WAKE members I know ask before they take something off the table *and don't drool on the counter.*

Up coming Calendar of Events

- **Nov. 18 - WAKE November meeting - Bob Kandiko will talk about some exotic destination**
- **Dec. - WAKE Annual Solstice Potluck and Elections
Lake Samish Park Lodge 6:00**
- **Jan. 1 - WAKE Annual New Year's Day Paddle & Brunch**

Coming in 2004 - John Dowd, Nigel Foster, and more!!

The Apostle Islands in Lake Superior

By Bob Kandiko

A nephew's wedding in Minneapolis late in June took Karen Neubauer and me inland for the start of summer. Feeling the need for open, rugged coastline, we opted for a pilgrimage to the waters that sank the Edmund Fitzgerald. Joining my brother we drove north of the Twin Cities 4 hours through Duluth then to the scenic harbor town of Bayfield. Up early in the morning we ventured over to the Trek and Paddle center where we were to rent kayaks. Explaining that we were WAKE members meant nothing to these people! We were given a written test which we all failed. Questions like 'How deep is Lake Superior?', 'What do you do if a lightning storm approaches in the middle of a 6 mile crossing?' and 'How do you compensate for drift?' stumped most of us. Explaining our paddling experience we were able to at least get a chance for the water test. Putting on our paddling pants and jackets, we braced for the chill of the 47 degree water. We were first asked to show our paddle strokes including the ability to paddle backward for 75 yards in a double (?) before we flipped the boats to perform a wet exit and re-entry. Karen had to hit the water twice! To make an already long story shorter, we did qualify for the rentals, but not before being ridiculed and humbled.

A short shuttle to us to a launch beach at Little Sand Bay. A 4 mile crossing to Sand Island was not without drama as booming thunder echoed over the lake. Sand Island was delightful with 30 to 50 foot sandstone caves sculpted out of orange rock. Paddling through the arches and caves was a bit like a reading a Tolkien novel. We circled the is-

land before landing at the campsite where we had reserved a spot. Being part of the National Lakeshore, all campsites must be secured prior to one's trip. Miles of trails enabled us to walk through the beautiful birch and evergreen forest. This place must really be spectacular with autumn colors. One trail took us to one of 4 lighthouses in the Apostles. These rugged outposts provided ships with the necessary guidance to travel through the narrow channels.

That night we experienced the WORST mosquitoes of our many years of paddling. We could not get out to relieve ourselves without having hundreds of the monsters nail any exposed skin, and you have to have some exposed skin to achieve the desired purpose. Suffice to say, we had bites where bites should never be. Launching the next day to more booming thunder, we paddled into the main island group. The islands are uniformly low lying thereby making navigation more difficult as all of them look the same. Crossing are 2 to 6 miles and fog and wind can appear without warning. It was more exposed than we had expected but with the experience of San Juan Island paddling, we were prepared.

With only 3 days to paddle, we barely scratched the surface of the potential of these scenic islands. The forests, lighthouses, and sandstone sculptures were fantastic. We would recommend this area to anyone, but hear that in the middle of summer, the crowds can be a negative factor. Lake Superior is indeed a huge body of water that acts like an ocean. We will have to return for another paddle.

A Great Slide Show

The last meeting **Reg Lake** put on a great slide show of a number of his kayaking adventures. From hiking into remote California areas over 13,000 ft + passes and down wild rivers to kayaking in the Glacier bays of southern Patagonia. His companions were some of the finest people in kayaking and alpine pursuits including Yvon Chouinard of Patagonia clothing and Doug Tompkins of Esprit. His final segment of the slide presentation was a beautiful collection of photos precisely timed to match the photos with the words of some great wayfaring songs. If you missed this show try to find when Reg will give one in the future, it was truly inspiring.

A tip from David Harris Having not been a paddler very long, one thing I have learned is how long it takes to dry out a pair of *Chotas*. I have seen boot dryers for sale in magazines for years but have never taken the plunge and purchased one. Some months ago I was at the home of Andy Wallis and noticed he had one in his basement drying out a pair of *Chotas*. Andy told me the boot dryer worked great so I decided to get one. He was right. When I get home from a paddle, I rinse them inside and out in fresh water and put the *Chotas* on the dryer dripping wet. I swear they are bone dry in about 8 hours. In April, I attended the IDW at Bowman Bay and wouldn't get home until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. I would rinse out the *Chotas*, put them on the dryer and be out the door the next morning at 600 a.m. with dry warm *Chotas*.

The dryer I purchased is called the *PEET Boot Dryer*. It is electric but has no fan and is rated at 36 watts. It dries the boots out by creating warm convective air currents. It is completely silent. You can purchase a *PEET Boot Dryer* at Yeager's Sporting Goods in their shoe section and it sells for about \$35. I have seen it advertised on sale for about \$25.

Wavelength Magazine

In reading over the past issue Aug/Sept of Wavelength Magazine I was very impressed on their thorough and in depth articles. They have an inclusive look at the area called Orca Pass, the area around and North of the San Juan Islands. Articles include the efforts to protect this area, a personal paddle through it and a lot of interesting information of all aspects of the area. They also have the complete back issues on line at www.wavelengthmagazine.com. Their ads are colorful and informative. They have good book and gear reviews and a monthly section on kayak paddle meals: At home wrap squares of filo pastry around wedges of Brie cheese with a dollop of Apricot jam. Keep cool in ziplock bag or container. Bake in a wok with a little olive oil for a few minutes until browned and crisp. **Yummm**

Wavelength Magazine would like to offer **WAKE** members a **SPECIAL reduced rate** 'Club Sub', a personal subscription to WaveLength at just \$10 (regularly \$15). WaveLength Paddling Magazine is devoted to the world of paddling and its preservation. We welcome articles, ideas, letters, photos, calendar listings, tips and news. The magazine is published bi-monthly and distributed to paddlers at retail outlets, through manufacturers, guides & outfitters, paddling clubs, environmental groups equally in Canada and the US. All that's required to activate a subscription at this special rate is the member's name and address, the name of the club and a check for \$10.

2003 WEST COAST SEA KAYAK SYMPOSIUM

The 20th Annual West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium was enjoyed by 1478 registered attendees and thousands of curious onlookers from as far away as Sweden. Sixty four exhibitors displayed the world's finest Sea Kayaks and related gear, under clear blue skies and 70+ degree temperatures.

On-water instructors representing a variety of Northwest instructional centers taught a wide range of courses to beginners as well as seasoned sea kayakers.

Land based presentations covered a full spectrum, ranging from practical knot tying to planning an international expedition.

Friday's evening presentation was **Alaska; Wet and Wild**. At visual smorgasbord of Alaska by **Michael DeYoung**.

Saturday, **Jon Bowermaster** shared excerpts from his last two National Geographic expeditions to the **South Pacific** and **Viet Nam**. Later that evening people danced and tapped their feet to the **Barbed Wire Cutters**; a bluegrass band enjoying international success.

The beach was crowded with eager participants trying the newest kayaks, canoes and recreational boats. At times, the biggest challenge was finding enough water to paddle on as hundreds of boats crisscrossed the patrolled demo area.

Out take surveys confirmed the obvious attendee satisfaction with more than a few requesting to be notified as soon a registration is opened for the 2004 event to be held

September 17-19, 2004.

Keep a look out for this stolen boat, I've heard Mercia has found 5 stolen boats on the ferry from Vancouver to the Island. Had the RCMP meet the folks at the ferry landing!

Sad tidings from the Northshore of Hood Canal.....

On (approximately) September 10 thieves cut the steel cable used to lock up my kayak and carried my treasured friend away. If anyone sees, or is offered, a 17' Eddyline Wind Dancer single sea kayak please call (collect) Janis McNeal at 360-275-4792 or 360-620-0817. OR call the Mason County Sheriffs' Office at 360-275-4467 ext. 313, case number 03-13335. My blue top - white bottom fiberglass kayak has a deck mounted compass and very faintly the name "Scooter" can be seen on the bow-end hull (former owner used peel & stick letters). there is a stainless steel hasp on the rear hatch cover, and stainless steel screws on the deck between the cockpit and the compass. I realize that the boat could be another color by now, but screw holes are hard to hide. the serial number of my stolen Eddyline kayak! SN# EDY 04 310A 393 ANY info leading to the recovery of my boat will be VERY appreciated. THANKS for your help! Janis McNeal



Sterling Donaldson Opens New Shop

Sterling was one of the first kayakers in town and has been an energetic founder of the sport here. He has been repairing and building kayaks in his two bay garage next to his home until last month when he moved to a 3,000 foot shop on Kline Road just north of Hannigan Rd.

Andy Wallis, retail manager at Johnson Outdoors Inc., in Ferndale, makers of Ocean Kayaks and Necky Kayaks, says Donaldson does the best work around. "If you want it done right, you take it to him," Wallis says. "He takes boats that are 10, 15 years old and they look like they're brand new."

Most of the repair jobs he gets are from mishaps with racks. The worst he's dealt with was one that flew off a car and shattered its bottom against a highway department sign. On another kayak he's installed bulkheads to keep it more buoyant. To keep up with the technology, Donaldson follows advances in the aerospace industry. He has a bookshelf crammed with catalogs for aeronautical composites. He also builds a very fast fiberglass kayak on custom order. Sterling can be reached at 398-2410.



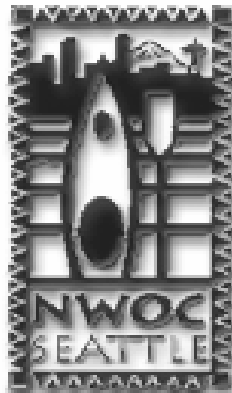
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W.A.K.E. Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
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Mail check to W.A.K.E. P.O. Box 1952 Bellingham, WA 98227. Annual dues are from 1/1 to 12/31. Membership is \$20/ household and \$10 After July 1st.

WAKE

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