



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



October 2004

Volume 23 Issue 7

A Message from your Board By Richard Cochinos

Ever Thought of.....

being President of the USA? running for the Senate and House?... or standing for election to WAKE'S Board of Directors?

Seriously, one way the club improves is by the influence and direction of new ideas; dif-

ferent approaches to solving some of the problems that all clubs occasionally face. I encourage all members to consider running for election to the Board. This is a volunteer effort, and your payment is the satisfaction of helping WAKE grow and improve.

Please consider being an active volunteer. Write a paragraph or two telling the present board a little bit about yourself and what you would try to accomplish if elected to the board. The paragraph(s) will serve as your nomination to stand for

election at the annual meeting on December 3. Send them by email or letter to Richard-Cochinos@msn.com or Richard Cochinos, 762 Sudden Valley, Bellingham, WA 98229 or WAKE, P.O. Box 1952, Bellingham, WA 22798.

**October 19th club meeting
Fairhaven Library
Doors open at 7:00, meeting starts 7:30**

**Robert Kandiko and Karen
Neubauer
Masters of Superb Slideshows
will be the featured presenters**

Annual Meeting. This year, the Club's annual meeting, Xmas party, silent auction and elections will be held at the Squalicum Harbor Boathouse on Friday evening December 3rd, 2004 from 6:00 pm until?

This will be a first time for the Club at this location. The Boathouse is centrally located, has ample parking, and can comfortably seat the ENTIRE membership of WAKE. So mark your calendar and

(Continued on page 2)

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"

we'll see all of you there. Complete details and directions will be in the next newsletter.

Why Serve on the Board of Directors? by Tom Emrich

We live busy, complicated lives. What add to that by volunteering to serve on WAKE's Board of Directors? For me, the answer is simple – it's fun and rewarding. I get to spend time with some great people, laughing and learning, and get to see my ideas put into action for the betterment of the club. Our annual elections are coming up and I would like you to think about running.

First, serving on the board is fun. Really! We enjoy each other's company and it shows in our monthly meetings. Even with important decisions needing to be made, we don't lose sight of the fact we're all volunteers trying to do our best. And, as with any WAKE event, there's lots of good food.

Second, it's educational. There's always something new to be learned about the club, kayaking, and each other. Although the club isn't big, we're involved in many different activities and by being on the board you learn about each event, its priorities and organization, and how it fits into WAKE.

Finally, serving on the board is empowering. You get to actively shape the club and watch as your ideas are put into action. There's a sense of accomplishment knowing you've affected the club and its future.

Typically, the board meets one evening a month and there might be a special meeting once in a while, so the time commitment isn't huge. The board of directors oversees the direction of the club, sets goals, makes long-term plans, and advises the officers. The board doesn't run the day-to-day operations and board members aren't the same as club officers (although you can volunteer to be an officer.)

I encourage anyone interested to speak to one of the current board members or club officers, and should you decide to run for the board, to send a short paragraph about yourself and your interest in being on the board. Remember, the club doesn't just happen on its own; it requires you, the members, to guide it into the future.

This Month's Meeting Featured Speakers Robert Kandiko and Karen Neubauer

Bob and Karen will be showing images on a weeks trip west of Port Hardy to Hope Island & Nigel Island in an area known as God's Pocket. Fantastic open beaches and remoteness full of wildlife. They also have slide of a 5 day trip from Neah Bay to La Push along the Olympic coast passing Cape Flattery and Shi Shi beach. Bob and Karen will end with last winter's trip to the Gulf Coast of the Everglades from Everglades City to Florida Bay and Flamingo. A little of everything for paddlers entering the storming season of the Pacific Northwest.

Join Wake's email Listserve

What is a listserv?

A listserv is an automated emailing program that distributes messages sent to a central address to all subscribers. Only the originating email address is seen, keeping all other subscriber's addresses private. Unlike spam emails, only subscribers who have personally signed up will receive the emails and they will all pertain to WAKE or kayaking in general. The WAKE listserv will be moderated, meaning it will be overseen and any commercial, inappropriate, or 'flamers' will be warned and possibly removed from the list.

Why a listserv?

Simply, we needed to find a way for WAKE members to communicate quickly, informally, and easily to facilitate

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the activities of the club and its members. Currently we have our monthly newsletter and the website, but each of these have a certain lag time and neither is informal since they go out to all members and the public alike. The advantage of a listserv is that it's basically instantaneous and the messages are sent only to people who have a direct interest in the subject. It's a great way to announce a trip, find paddling partners, ask kayak questions, and more.

How do I join?

Joining the listserv is a three-step process - Send a blank email to kayak-subscribe@wakekayak.org. You will receive an email (from the listserv program) confirming your subscription request, and asking you to reply to the email to verify the request. Reply to the email. Once you've done this you will get a Welcome email, saying you've been successfully subscribed, and listing a series of commands for use with the listserv. (Be sure to save this email, it contains some useful information.) That's it!

How do I send emails?

Sending an email to everyone on the list is easy - just send it to kayak@wakekayak.org. Since you're on the listserv, you'll get a copy of your email, with [kayak] added to the subject to differentiate it from regular emails.

How do I reply to emails?

There are two ways to reply to an email - To reply to only the sender (and not the entire listserv), simply click Reply on your email program, type your message, and send it. To reply to everyone on the listserv, click Reply to All (or similar) on your email program, type your message, and send it.

Wanted! WAKE Webmaster

by Tom Emrich

After 8 years as WAKE's webmaster, it's time to turn the job over to someone else. It's been fun creating and maintaining the website and it's very satisfying to see how many people use it and how its helped WAKE become a great club. As such an integral part of the club, it now needs someone with new energy and a new voice to keep it up to WAKE's high standards. To be webmaster, you should have a basic understanding of HTML, simple design and layout, and a knack or interest in writing. Much of the work is simply keeping it up to date with new information and occasionally refreshing the look and feel. The schedule and classifieds have been automated to simplify those tasks, and the rest of the site is quite simple - a little text and some graphics.

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



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The Crown Jewels of the San Juans

By John Montgomery

A Trip Report August 30th 2004

After spending two months lining up a group of seven paddlers and one alternate for this trip, I was rather disappointed to have six cancellations in the week before the launch date. But more disappointing still was a weekend weather forecast that called for lots of clouds and rain and wind. Ugh! Prospects for the trip were looking grim. And yet, as the saying goes, everything worked out in the end. On Saturday, I met Nancy and Mac on the ferry and we reviewed the current atlas and tide predictions together on our ride over to Orcas, then we drove over to North Beach and launched. The funny thing is, all that worry about paddling conditions was completely wasted energy. The seas were smooth and the wind was calm during our three-mile paddle over to Ewing Cove on the northeast tip of Sucia Island. We spent the rest of the afternoon setting up camp, making dinner, and enjoying(?) a very smoky fire made by yours truly. From our quiet, little camp, we could see flashes of lightening somewhere in the vicinity of Bellingham, but that was as close as the thunderstorm came to us. It did rain a little during the night, but by Sunday morning the clouds were going. going. gone. Yahoo! Blue skies above. Around 10 a.m., we launched for a day trip over to Patos Island and arrived an hour later. Just like Sucia, the place was all but deserted. No campers, just a single sail boat. We hiked out to the lighthouse for a few photos, and then returned to Active Cove for lunch and a brief snooze in the sun. After that, we set off to circumnavigate the island and here's where we all had a little fun. While we were at the lighthouse, we observed a nice patch of standing waves just off Alden Point. The waves were still standing when we came back in our boats and each of us had a good, fun ride bouncing and surfing around the corner. From there, we had the current with us all the way back to Sucia. Back at camp, Mac entertained Nancy with a rolling session while I went out and caught a couple kelp greenlings for dinner. Yum! That night, Mac was in charge of the fire (where did all the smoke go?) and we watched satellites sail overhead and listened to owls hooting in the trees. On Monday, we packed up camp and paddled over to Matia Island. Once again, we didn't have much wind to contend with, even though we did encounter a rather choppy section of rip along the way. After reaching the completely deserted island, we circumnavigated it then hauled out at a tiny cove on the south side. A heavily laden pear tree marked the cove as a former homestead site. We then hiked a one-mile loop through some beautiful old-growth timber and then sat down for lunch in the sun. And here was the icing on the cake: a lone Minke whale blew directly in front of us and passed right by our little cove. It was a perfect send off to a very enjoyable trip. Thanks Mac and Nancy, for hanging in there until the end!



Rain Happens

by John Montgomery

The statistics say it all: 10 days in Barkley Sound, 8 inches of rain, 20 hours of sunshine. Total.

I hadn't paddled Barkley Sound since 1992 and I was hoping my August visit there would be a trip down memory lane, as well as a chance to see how far I've come as a kayaker. You see, a dozen years ago my paddling clothing consisted of a cotton T-shirt, shorts, and gumboots; my back deck was loaded down with at least 20 pounds of extra gear (all wrapped in Glad garbage bags and held down with bungies), and my PFD was strapped to my front deck. I was one safety-conscious paddler, let me tell you!

On this recent trip, I was going solo (in full awareness of the risk that entails) and my plan was far more ambitious than anything I would have attempted earlier: launch from Toquart Bay, cruise out through the Broken Group to the outer islands, cross over to the outer islands of the Deer Group, explore these islands while heading inland, then cross back to safety. I'm happy to report that everything went according to plan; everything, of course, except the rain.

Invariably, if you tell another kayaker that you had a rainy trip to such-and-such a place, they'll exclaim, "Oh, really!!! We JUST took a trip out there and it was HOT AND SUNNY EVERY SINGLE DAY!" Or they might even say, "Well that's a shame, John.... I've done three long trips there over the years and I've never seen a drop of rain yet." Well, "Good for you!", I think to myself.

Actually, I can't begrudge these people they're good fortune. In fact, I'm thrilled, because it's those glorious, blue-sky days out on the wild West Coast that come to dominate a kayaker's daydreams all year long. It is those cherished memories of good times that hook them on kayaking for life; that motivate people to learn more about our sport and develop their skills so they may safely explore even more new territory in the years ahead. And though it may sound spiteful to say it, I also know that sooner or later they'll have their own wet trip to endure. Perhaps it will even be a very, very wet trip. It happens.

And when it does, they'll discover that their dirty clothes now smell like rotten garbage and their clean clothes... well, they smell like a mud flat at low tide. As for their gear, every single scrap of it will be dripping wet and even the stuff in their dry bags will become damp and sticky with moisture. Perhaps they'll even wake up one morning to find that banana slugs have done unspeakable things to the walls of their brand new tent. It happens. But, like me, their memories of blue skies, white sand beaches, and hot, sunny days will help them endure.

During the many hours I spent waiting for breaks in the weather, I read the classic novel Wind, Sand and Stars by Antoine St. Exupery. In it are many stories about the Sahara Desert and what it's like to nearly die of thirst. At the conclusion of one such tale, Saint Ex wrote, "Water, thou hast no taste, no color, no odor; canst not be defined, art relished while ever mysterious. Not necessary to life, but rather life itself, thou fillest us with a gratification that exceeds the delight of the senses."

Believe me when I say that my senses weren't the slightest bit delighted by the endless onslaught of "life" falling from the skies during my trip. Anything but. However, on my ninth and final night of camping, when I had only five easy miles left to paddle back to my car, I got quite drunk on the last of my port; so drunk, that I really didn't care that I had used up the last of my fresh drinking water while making dinner. When I awoke early the next morning my mouth was like cotton and I had a splitting headache. Oh, for a drink of water! And there it was, almost a gallon of freshly-fallen rain pooled in the cradle of my cockpit cover. It was a gift that I received with much gratification, thanks, in part, to a long-dead philosopher who knew the value of fresh water.

For Sale: **Northwest Kayaks Seascape 2**. Stable, large volume, high Quality fiberglass double kayak with rudder. Cockpit covers included. Excellent condition \$1600 John Hudson 360-675-8455. 1317 SW Windsor St. Oak Harbor Wa 98277

For Sale: **Swift Sea Star 2** piece fiberglass paddle. Blade is modified to a symmetrical shape. 204 cm. New value is \$255, in good used condition \$102. Brand New Bending Branches beautiful wooden Sun Shadow two piece paddle with "Day" blade and carbon fiber ferrule. 220 centimeters. List price is \$200, selling for \$125. I also have other paddles I may decide to sell. Ken Rasmussen, 360 766 8720 or ken@kayakfit.com .

For Sale **1999 Kokotat Gore-Tex Dry Suit** (Men's Medium). Features relief zipper, over-skirt, reflective tape on the sleeves, but NO hood. Needs new neck gasket and booties. Only used about 20 times, mainly for rescue practice and winter surfing. (I'm 5'8" tall and it's too big for me. Suggest you be closer to six feet.) Mint condition. No delamination, no worn fabric, no cracks in the zipper, and no stains. \$500 firm. John Montgomery 360-468-3229.

John Janney has been leading **Saturday paddles** and has had a good turn out, from 6 people on a windy-rainy day to 14 on an average northwest winter Saturday. We have been to the border at Semiahmoo to the Skagit River with paddles at Chuckanut Bay in between. We plan on paddling Deception Pass and Ebey Island (near Everett) so, dust off that kayak. If there is a scheduled paddle on a Saturday then people meeting at Starbucks will be able to make up their own spontaneous Saturday Paddle contact John Janney (360) 933-1584

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Calendar of Events

*Winter time: we're short on paddles and long on meetings.
Where are the brave winter trip leaders of years past?*

Oct 19 - WAKE Monthly Meeting Bob Kandiko and Karen Neubauer Paddling in the Florida Everglades and more.

Nov 16 WAKE Monthly Meeting - Shawn and Leon from Orcas Island present paddling around Iceland

Dec 3 - Annual WAKE Meeting & Potluck - Time once again for our annual food and gab fest, featuring WAKE-provided ham & turkey, annual elections, a silent(?) auction, and more food than anyone should be able to eat.

There's a new location this year - the Boathouse at Zuanich Park, in Squalicum Marina. (new location!)

Jan 1 - Annual WAKE New Year's Day Paddle & Brunch If it's a new year, it's time for our annual paddle from Fairhaven to Squalicum Marina for brunch and back. What better way to shake off your hangover and celebrate the new than with a brisk paddle?

Pool sessions - Practice your old skills, learn new ones, or just soak in the sitz bath. Only \$3.50!!

Sun. 11:30am-1:00pm, Tues. & Thurs. 8:00-9:00pm NOTE: This is **NOT** a WAKE-sponsored event, it's an open time for all kayakers.

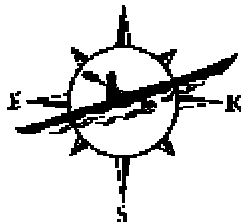
Every Saturday Short paddles in the Bellingham area. Beginners always welcome. Destinations are determined by the skill level and interests of whoever shows up, and, of course, by the weather.

- Meet at Sehome Village Starbucks @ 9:00AM

For Fall: Electronic News Letters

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, contact Norm Nielson at nordicnorm@comcast.net He will notify you when the WAKE newsletter is currently on our website with the link. Save paper and save club dollars!

Please check the web at wakekayaks.org for all scheduled events



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- (Be sure to take your latest newsletter showing your name on the label as proof of membership)

The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

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Kristi Hug.....	(360) 676-4110	kristi_krunch@hotmail.com	Vice President
Andy Wallis.....	(360) 756-7553	awallis@johnsonoutdoors.com	Secretary
John Janney.....	(360) 933-1584	jyyak@aol.com	Trips Coordinator
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Gene Davis.....	(360) 384-5745	kayakforever@yahoo.com	Speaker scheduler
Lisa Wallis.....	(360) 756-7553	Trekkin@fildalgo.net	DNR liaison
Kathy Rounds.....	(360) 966-2276	rounds@az.com	New Member Liaison

W.A.K.E. Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

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 (\$10 After July 1st.)

WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 1952
Bellingham, WA 98227

