



# W.A.K.E.

*Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts*



April 2004

Volume 23 Issue 4

## *A Message from your Board*

*By Kristi Hug*

The weather has steadily been improving, and now the time change leaves us with even more daylight. Time to dust off the kayaks and paddle! We've started out the year with some great speakers, and great trips. Check out Kathy Round's trip report for the Yellow

Island trip. Fifteen smiling (and slightly sunburned) paddlers can't be wrong. The board has been working on some interesting projects this year. We're gearing up for the swap meet, continuing the maintenance of the Lummi DNR site,

and starting talks with the Port of Bellingham on a Bellingham Bay water trail. Coming soon, you will have the option of receiving the monthly newsletter via email. We're also resurrecting the WAKE library. We have a donation of most the Sea Kayaker magazines, many books, and the Nigel Foster DVD's. We're hoping to make items available next meeting, to be returned one month later at the next meeting.

Spring is a good time to make sure all your gear is in good shape. Pay particular attention to deck lines, tie down straps, and toggles, replace them if they look marginal. The WAKE Swap Meet and demo day is coming up May 1<sup>st</sup> at Blodel Donovan park

and is a great place to pick up some sweet deals on used gear and boats. The swap meet is also great place to pass along your gently used gear. Best of all, you get to paddle lots of different kayaks and talk with the dealers.

<p align="center"><b>April 20th club meeting</b>  <b>Fairhaven Library</b>  <b>Doors open at 7:00, meeting starts 7:30</b></p> <hr/> <p align="center"><b>(John Dowd rescheduled to May meeting)</b>  <b>Coast Guard &amp; Immigration and Customs enforcement presentation</b>  <b>Open Question and Answer period for all your kayaking queries</b></p>
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One thing I've always wondered, how to get rid of expired flares. The Coast Guard has come to my rescue. They're having a flare demo and blow off, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Blaine Harbor. They will be demonstrating different types of flares, and letting boaters shoot off their old flares for practice.

There are an amazing variety of trips on the schedule so far this summer. Everything

*(Continued on page 2)*

**WWW.WAKEKAYAK.ORG**

from mellow day paddles, to surfing, to longer trips. I'm sure the rest of the season will fill up with spontaneous trips and events. A big thanks to all of the trip leaders for volunteering their time and efforts. For any of you that would like to improve your trip leading skills, Chris Mitchell will have a leadership seminar April 25<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to pre-register with him at Secondwindsports.net or give him a call.

The club is what you make it, so come along, learn some more paddling skills, burn some dinners on a camp stove, share lunch with your fellow paddlers, and enjoy the summer.

**MAY 1ST SWAP MEET AND DEMO DAY**  
**BLODEL DONOVAN PARK**  
**10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**Comments for Port of Bellingham Recreational Planning**

WAKE letter to Dave Darling Executive Director Port of Bellingham:

We understand that the Port of Bellingham is soliciting ideas for waterfront recreation facilities in Whatcom County. We are writing to voice our club's desire to include a Bellingham Bay Water Trail in the Port of Bellingham plans. The Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts (WAKE) is an organization of 113 members supporting human-powered kayak activities in the Bellingham area. Club activities include monthly meetings held at the Fairhaven Branch of the Bellingham Public Library, free kayaking trips, kayaking safety classes, and upkeep of the Lummi Island Department of Natural Resources (DNR) campsite. The Lummi Island DNR site is one of many sites on the Cascadia Marine Trail that stretches over 140 miles from Olympia to Point Roberts and includes many sites in the San Juan Islands. The Bellingham Bay Water Trail we propose would connect to the Cascadia Marine Trail.

Our thoughts for a Bellingham Bay Water Trail include improving the launch sites at Marine Park, Boulevard Park, the south end of Cornwall Avenue, the Squalicum Marina, and the Little Squalicum Park beach at the west end of Roeder Avenue. The Water Trail could also include a public launch site in the Chuckanut Bay Marsh and Tidelands. A secure boat storage facility and a low floating dock at the Squalicum Harbor and/or Marina would be a major enhancement to the Water Trail. A low floating dock would facilitate launching human-powered boats, in particular rowing sculls. The Water Trail sites should be identified by signs, and should also be indicated in Port and City guides such as the Parks & Recreation Department's "Parks, Trails &

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Our Thanks to Nigel Foster**

For putting on one of the best WAKE meetings ever. It was really enjoyable seeing the early years of the kayaking sport first hand from an educator and adventurer. Nigel is interested in putting on workshops in this area if there is the interest. Contact Richard Cochinos

(Continued from page 2)

Natural Areas Guide Map.” We do not propose overnight camping at any of the Bellingham Bay Water Trail sites; however, the Port and City could encourage local restaurants, hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments to list their phone numbers and addresses at the secure boat storage facility so that visiting boaters may find food and lodging. We are convinced that a Bellingham Bay Water Trail would be a low-cost boost to Bellingham’s economy by fostering tourism, human-powered water sports, and small businesses serving these activities.

Our club is solidly behind this vision. WAKE will enthusiastically turn out volunteers to help the Port of Bellingham build and maintain the proposed Bellingham Bay Water Trail. We look forward to working with the Port of Bellingham in any capacity you think fit. We would be glad to meet with you personally to discuss specifics of kayak-related recreational sites and facilities. If you would like to meet with us, then please contact our treasurer, Norm Nielsen at 647-2531.

Sincerely, THE WAKE BOARD

### 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!

## UPDATE ON THE SATURDAY PADDLES

John Janney has been leading Saturday paddles 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 Semiah-moo 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 John Janney

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



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## EXERPTS FROM SEATTLE TIMES ARTICLE

### Mike McQuade Joins WAKE for a Saturday Morning Paddle

See the full article at: <http://www.wakekayak.org/Articles/SeattleTimesSkagit.htm>

### Skagit River delta is a world of wonders for kayakers

By Mike McQuaide

*Special to The Seattle Times*

ON THE SKAGIT DELTA — It's high tide at the mouth of the Skagit River, and heads are popping up all over. Harbor-seal heads. There's one right next to Peggy's boat. Another off Jim's bow. Two of them, right behind Gene. Poking up through the water, the seals' shiny black heads resemble bowling balls, with their round eyes and snout as the finger holes. Their slightly surprised visage suggests that of the homeowner who's spotted a patrol car in front of another neighbor's house: "Hmm, wonder what's going on over there?" There are six of us paddling this late winter morning, and the first seal we spotted inspired a kind of silent reverence in us all. After an hour of paddling in and out of the nooks and crannies of the Skagit River delta, something was now checking *us* out.



The second and third seal inspired awe as well. But 15 minutes later when a half-dozen seals surround us on all sides, well, it's not that we've lost appreciation for one of Mother Nature's more playful creatures, it's just that we're back focusing our attention on our immediate surroundings — this odd collection of trees, snags, stumps, logs and Medusa-esque root systems that for all the

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

world looks like a forest that decided to lay down for a nap right here in Skagit Bay...  
..All are from Bellingham and are members of the Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts (WAKE). It's a close-knit, good-natured bunch who practice rescue techniques and go on day and extended trips together. They love to paddle; they love hanging out with each other; they love experiencing wildlife, but maybe they're not so good on specifics. "What's that?" I ask, when an unfamiliar fowl scoots along the water to our right, then takes off. "Some kind of duck," is the answer I receive.

## LUMMI DNR CAMPSITE TO STAY OPEN

\$200,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2005 is provided solely for providing public access to camp sites and trails maintained by the department. This additional funding, along with existing funding from the off road vehicle account is intended to fully fund current access to camp sites and trails. If additional funding is required to avoid closures to camp sites and trails during the 2003-05 biennium, the department shall reduce expenditures for agency administration by five percent and redeploy those general fund resources to the recreation program prior to closing any camp sites or trails. Also, the legislature passed a bill (HB 2454) to allow voluntary contributions to the DNR for the purpose of operating and maintaining public use and recreation facilities.

## Yellow Island Trip Report

By Kathy Rounds

Ten paddlers were scheduled to meet at Starbuck's at 9:00am and head to the ferries. Nine showed up and were waiting for the tenth when the Starbuck's gal came out to the parking lot with a phone call for us. It seems Kristi's car decided to go for a ride without her over her rock wall. But no damage was done and she'd meet us at the ferry terminal.

All those going by ferry on Friday met in line and visited while waiting. It was a beautiful day! Dan and Pat, who were initially coming on Saturday got the time off and met us in line also. Kristi had some entertaining photos for us of her wayward car.

Twelve of us launched from Deer Harbor about 3 pm and had a relaxing paddle to Jones Is. Les and Dave went back to Deer Harbor about half way there as Les thought he'd left his weather radio on the beach. Turned out it was in his boat. Good excuse to get a latte.

As we paddle to the cove on Jones we spotted a tent already on the point in the primo camp-sites, then we realized it was Reg who had paddled from Sandy Point. Way to go Reg! Half the group camped by the meadow and half stayed out at the point. That evening we had a large moon, clear skies, entertainment and great company. Can't think of a better way to start off kayak camping season.

Saturday morning some early riser went for a morning paddle. Reg, Sharon, Dan and Pat went to meet Linda and Allison at Deer Harbor and paddle to Jones with them. We waited until about 10:20 and decided they must have had lattes and breakfast and probably went directly

*(Continued on page 6)*

to Yellow Island.

Rounding the point heading for the beach on Yellow Is we spotted a few people on the shore taking photos of us. Yep it was Reg, Linda, and Sharon. We landed and Phil Green, the Conservancy caretaker was very gracious and allowed the rest of us to explore the island. This trip we saw a variety of lilies, shooting stars, paint brush , rock succulents, cacti etc.

The group then broke up into three groups. Some went back to Jones, some went to McConnell for lunch and some continued paddling through the Wasp group. The group that continued on made a stop at Deer Harbor for lattes and chili before heading back to Jones. That evening we considered a moonlight paddle but it was a bit cloudy so we enjoyed more music and laughter instead.

We saw porpoise, otter, mink, seals, king fishers, and eagles. Sunday morning we had a great send off by an eagle at the point campsite.

We headed back just before 10 and 1/2 hour later we were in Deer Harbor. We got to the ferry line and had time to eat and walk around the village. Contrary to some WAKE members who said we'd **never** make the first ferry we did!

The weather and company on this trip was fantastic. Thanks to a terrific group of paddlers ....Reg, Kristi, Dave, Sharon, Jackie, Richard, Pat, Dan, Ed, Penny, Mac, Linda, and Allison.

Kathy & Les Happy paddling to all!

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A silhouette of a person in a kayak, holding a paddle, against a large circular background that resembles a sun or moon. The person and kayak are on a dark surface, possibly water.

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# Calendar of Events

- Every Saturday Short paddles in the Bellingham area - Meet at Sehome Village Starbucks @ 9:00AM
- Apr. 20 WAKE meeting - Coast Guard Information presentation and Old timers Q & A
- Apr. 25 WAKE Leadership Seminar at Bowman Bay
- Apr.30- May2 ACA Instructor Development Workshop class by Chris Mitchell
- May 1 Fifth Annual WAKE Kayak Swap Meet & Demo Day - Bloedel-Donovan Park 10am-4pm**
- May 8 WAKE paddle from Anacortes to Jack Island
- May ?? Kayak Camping Class - learn what to bring on multi-day trips, and how to get it all in your boat.
- May 18 WAKE Meeting- John Dowd, sea kayaking's grand master
- May 21-24 19th Annual Coast Kayak Symposium on Thetis Island. Check the WAKE website for more info or call (604) 853-9320
- May 28-31 WAKE paddle on Sechelt Inlet in British Columbia. Space is very limited, call Rosemary at (604) 826-2852
- Mary 28-31 Surfing Safari Join the kayak surfers at Hobuck beach contact Kristi Hug 676-4110
- June ?? 2nd Annual Les & Andy Paddling Skills Seminar - To be held at Lake Padden, a full day of learning new skills and practicing your old ones.
- June 12 WAKE Deception Pass paddle and currents workshop
- June 26-27 WAKE paddle to Cypress Island

**Coming in 2004 - , George Gronseth, skills and leadership seminars, and more!!**

Kayak polo is starting up again next Tuesday evening 4/16, 5:30pm set up, 6pm game. Lake Padden swimming area. Bring your own whitewater-ish boat (sit on tops work well too) Games will continue Tuesday nights until September. Contact Gary Southstone 676-4279 Not specifically a wake event.



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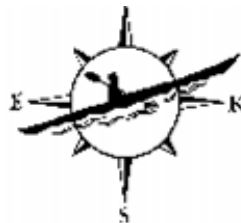
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  - **Wavelength Magazine**  
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- (Be sure to take your latest newsletter showing your name on the label as proof of membership)

# *The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy*

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<b>Lisa Wallis.....</b>	<b>(360) 756-7553</b>	Trekkin@fildalgo.net	<b>DNR liaison</b>
<b>Kathy Rounds.....</b>	<b>(360) 966-2276</b>	rounds@az.com	<b>New Member Liaison</b>

## W.A.K.E. Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

*Please remember: if the mailing label says Expires January 2004, then you need to renew your membership.*

# WAKE

**Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts**

**P.O. Box 1952**

**Bellingham, WA 98227**