



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



May 2003

Volume 22, Issue 5

A Message From Your Board

By Tom Emrich

It's May already, and that means it's time to do some serious kayaking now that the weather has gotten warmer and drier. A quick glance at the WAKE calendar should give you a dozen or so ideas of trips to take, places to go, and people to enjoy kayaking with.

The demo day and swap meet this past Saturday was a fund raiser for WAKE, and if you wonder where some of the money will go, I have three words for you - Lummi DNR campsite. As you know, WAKE has taken on a caretaker duty to maintain the campsite until DNR gets their budget back, and last year this meant several trips to the site for some general maintenance. This

year, things have changed. There is a large amount of storm damage to the site, including stairs washed out, trees down, and a collapsing bank. As well, it looks like the toilets might need replacing soon, which is a large expense.

In light of this, the board has voted to spend money to buy materials needed to fix some of the damage, and have work parties to do the best we can to make the site safe and usable. The first of these will be May 17 & 18 when Lisa and Andy Wallis will lead us from

Goosebury Point to the campsite and oversee the work. I would ask anyone who has the time to join us in this, we can't afford to lose the use of this campsite, it is truly one of the gems in all the islands.

The board is also looking at trying to get a grant to help pay for a new composting toilet to replace the two old pit toilets on site. Money is tight everywhere these days, but we'll make our best effort to solicit the funding. If any club members know of groups or businesses which would be good candidates for us to approach, please contact any board member. Or, if anyone is experienced at grant writing, we could sure use you!

Let's see, what else is going on with WAKE? Several of our members will be attending or instructing at the Coast Kayak Symposium on Thetis Island the 16th through 19th of this month. I know we say this all the time, but if you've never been to it, you're missing out on one of the great kayak events anywhere. There's a little slide show on the WAKE website (click the Coast Kayak Symposium link) that gives you a taste of what

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May club meeting May 20th, Fairhaven Library

Kayak navigation primer by Chris Mitchell.
Besides being a longtime WAKE member, Chris is an ACA Instructor Trainer

Doors open at 7 meeting starts 7:30

WAKE Website and Message Board

WWW.WAKEKAYAK.ORG

The most up-to-date schedule and trip descriptions; links to kayak manufacturers and other clubs, tide tables for the entire West Coast, ferry schedules; a club contact list; and lots more.

Also, we now have a kayak message board where members can post impromptu trips, questions and answers, and have

Editor's Message

I have to thank all parties involved in pulling off such a great event as we had this past weekend at our annual Swap meet and Boat Demo day. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the variety of boats brought by the manufacturer's involved was incredible. The entire event couldn't have been as successful though if it wasn't for the efforts of the WAKE volunteers, many went above and beyond the call of duty in making sure things ran smoothly and did their best to keep everyone happy and safe.

Many people also walked away with some great deals on boats or equipment. I was even able to replace the paddle I had so carelessly stepped on over the winter. Tom Lowell formerly of PaddleMasters provided much of the equipment that he had left over from his store stock and gave WAKE members great discounts

on gear. Tom still has some gear available and you can give him a call at 676-1907 if there is something you might need.

The newsletter will be back online in the next month, either in the form of a .pdf file that can be downloaded or as a web page, perhaps both. I'd like for members to contact one of the board members and let them know if they'd like to be taken off the mailing list for getting a newsletter and would prefer to view it online, this way we can save the club a little money. I'd also like people when submitting trip reports to email me at wakenews@attbi.com with any pictures they may have taken and we can use these in the online version.

I had more to say but I found this late breaking message from our club president to be more important, so read below what Lisa has planned for Lummi DNR trips.

My goal is to hit the Lummi DNR site at least once a month. Here are the Wallis DNR trips

1. Lummi DNR work trips, trip leaders Andy and Lisa Wallis

June 14 - launch around 10am Saturday morning, head back on Sunday

July 25th - leave Friday evening after work, home Saturday [maybe Sunday]

August 16 - 17 - circumnavigation weekend, leave Saturday morning and round the northern end of Lummi, enjoy the current the down the west side, then camp at the DNR site. Head home on Sunday morning. 19 mile trip, but easy when riding currents without a big head wind.

2. WAKE would like more Lummi DNR status reports by club volunteers. If you go to Lummi, please contact Lisa Wallis at trekkin@fidalgo.com or call 756-7553] with a progress report and any work or time you have put in to the site. I will forward this information to the bureaucrats. The DNR benefits from a log of volunteer hours. Helps them legitimize our effort. Digging in the many middens in the area is not allowed and should be reported immediately. Please report number of other campers at the site, general condition of the area, any vandalism or fire damage, as well as your general perception of this pristine area. Let fellow campers know that you are a WAKE volunteer and that the campsite is monitored. Be friendly. We want other folks to know that the site is not abandoned. We need to project a general friendly presence in the area. Also, if you have time, please pick up garbage, destroy fire rings on the beach or elsewhere, take down rogue shelters, etc.

3. Lummi DNR training. Be an "official volunteer". June 17th - site to be announced. Receive infectious disease and general site maintenance training from Kathy Gunther, the Natural Areas Steward for the DNR and Lisa Wallis, your club president as well as a nurse practitioner. After you receive this training, you will be listed as an official DNR volunteer, which makes you eligible for many amazing benefits - including disability if you are injured while working on our site. If you have previously attended this training, you are welcome back for a refresher course.

Lisa and Andy

Message from the Board

it's all about. WAKE is having both an ocean surf trip to Neah Bay and a trip to Sechelt Inlet in B.C. the weekend of the 23rd to 26th, and the Ski to Sea race is on Memorial Day weekend. If you're looking for something more relaxed, but very unique, on June 8th we're having a paddle through Deception Pass on the slack tide. This is a chance to experience the pass during a quiet moment and revel in its beauty.

Our May meeting will be a kayak navigation primer by Chris Mitchell. Besides being a longtime WAKE member, Chris is an ACA Instructor Trainer, has worked in the outdoor industry for over 30 years, and is

presently the Executive Director of the Trade Association of Paddlesports, which organizes the Pt. Townsend Sea Kayak Symposium each year amongst other things. Rather than try to teach us everything about navigation in 1 hour, Chris will instead focus on a few simple techniques you can remember and use on almost any trip. With these basics, you'll have better knowledge about getting around out on the water and hopefully will be more confident of your abilities to find your way on the water or on a map.

That's enough writing for me, I'll see you on the water.

Tom

Sea Kayak Magazine seeks reviewer

Sea Kayaker magazine is looking for an experienced female sea kayaker to occasionally test and write reviews of sea kayaks. You would have an opportunity to paddle up to 6-8 sea kayaks per year (but you are free to not review any kayaks offered to you). Many of the kayaks you would review would be just-released models. You would be expected to paddle the boat a couple of times or more and submit a review of 700-1,000 words according to a specific format (see any issue of Sea Kayaker magazine for an example of a review). You would typically be paid \$120 per review.

The candidate should meet the following requirements:

1. Must be female (Sea Kayaker currently has more than enough male reviewers).
2. Should be of medium-height, and roughly 150 lbs or less (Sea Kayaker especially has a need for smaller paddlers)
3. Must be an experienced (SK-IV level) sea kayaker, knowledgeable of, or at least willing to learn about boat design.
4. Have a bombproof roll (evaluation of a kayak's rollability is a requirement of each review).
5. Have a car with racks.
6. Have good writing skills.
7. Live in the Seattle metropolitan area.

In addition, it would be very helpful to have all your own gear aside from the kayak (e.g., wetsuit, PFD, sprayskirt, paddle, etc.). You could possibly get away with using club gear (especially if you are a trip coordinator), but just paddling these boats on Lake Washington really usually won't give them a good enough workout for a review. You would need to test out the boats on more challenging (SK-III+) trips, and it's difficult to do that in the time allotted if you need to wait around for someone else to run an SK-III or higher trip.

Let me know if you're interested. I am a current reviewer for Sea Kayaker, can answer any of your questions, and can refer you.

Gary Lai
Univ. of Washington Dept of Env. Health
P.O. Box 357234
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 616-1401 (phone) (206) 616-2687 (fax)

Trip Report - Lummi DNR Clean-up

by Lisa Wallis

Ahoy!

We had a great weekend at the Lummi DNR site. This site is a natural resources conservation area. Major muscle work was completed by WAKE volunteers including Red Galvin, Dave Harris, Adrienne Moll, Andy Wallis, and myself. Heavy winter storm damage had taken out two different steps leading off the beach. This included the steps going up to the small island camp site and the other steps servicing that same beach from the general camp areas. In addition, an old cedar tree snag had fallen and had taken out a trail leading from the main beach area to the main camp sites at the south end of the site. We were able to at least patch most of these spots with the exception of one stair case that needs major repairs. We also raked and pulled shrubs off of the trails, swept and cleaned the outhouses, and generally had fun. A good campfire as well as good food and spirits were enjoyed by all.

Kathy Gunther, the Natural Areas Steward from the DNR came out to inspect our work and was very pleased. We got high marks and are being touted as an example of a successful 'partnership'. She took lots of pictures of our progress.

We have permission from the DNR to repair the broken stair case. I asked the board for approval to purchase the materials. We estimate the lumber and such to cost less than \$500 - but I asked for some slack just in case we may have underestimated the project. The WAKE board gave us approval, so Andy Wallis [first-husband] will probably purchase the stuff in the next week or two.

We are planning a major work party on May 17-18. We decided to go back so soon in an

effort to get the place up and running safely prior to the season getting busy. Other projects for that weekend will include removing old posts near the outhouse and placing interpretive sign posts in the area. A rogue campsite needs to be swept out. We also need to shore up the trail where the cedar tree fell. Hauling beach pebbles up to steps we dug out the last work weekend would also be helpful - but strong backs are needed.

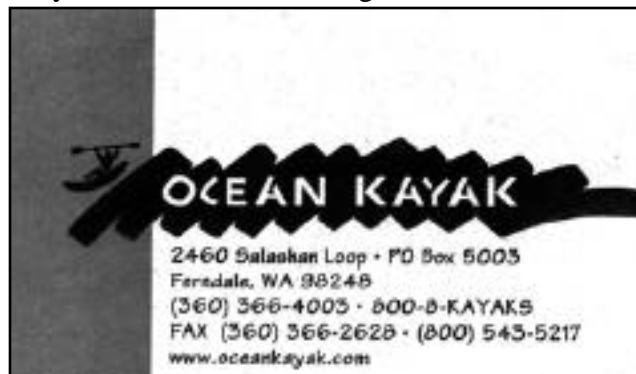
As far as the toilets. The question is whether or not they hold liquid. If they do not, then there most likely major leakage of sewage into the ground and ground water. If this is the case, we should seriously think about composting toilets. There is a huge cost difference in the price of these composting toilets, ranging from \$5,000 to \$70,000. Some WAKE junior engineers estimated a \$1000 bucks in supplies with free labor for the project - but would this pass government approval? Obviously we need to do some foot work and research. The maintenance of compost toilets would be more labor intensive for WAKE, but worth it. This project may require serious fund raising, but I think we could do it if we applied for grants from various sources. The DNR will help us make the decision regarding the toilets. For now, they smell okay, are structurally sound, and are clean!

WAKE has set a new precedent in volunteering to keep a government camp site open. We are being closely watched by the WWTA, the DNR, other government agencies, and many other kayak clubs around the country. The reality is that our state and government are in deficit times and budgets are cut. I am thankful to the volunteers of WAKE to keep the beautiful Lummi DNR site open and accessible.

CONGRATULATIONS

LES ROUNDS AND ANDY WALLIS
for passing levels I and II of the ACA
instructor certification course!! We wish you
luck with levels III and IV in May!

WAKE also CONGRATULATES
CHRIS MITCHELL - for passing the
instructor's instructor level of ACA
certification!



Trip Report : Bowman Bay to Burrows Island

by Dan Moos and Pat Peacock

On Saturday, April 12th, we were lucky enough to paddle from Bowman Bay to Burrows Island and back on what turned out to be a nice day for paddling. The paddle was led by Linda Sanford with a flotilla composed of Dave Harris, Pat Peacock, Bernie Walz, Dan Moos, and Ron Oberst. After a review of the currents by Dave, we began our voyage at 9:00 am out of Bowman Bay, past Rosario Head, up the west coast of Fidalgo Island. The geology along Fidalgo is outstanding. There are cliffs with many cave like holes to explore and between Sares Head and Langley Point. We were treated by the appearance of a couple of porpoises and of course, the always impressive eagles. We witnessed a short avian spat between one eagle and another hawk like bird. Although we did not stop, there appeared to be several inviting beaches along the way. At Langley Point we headed Northwest toward Allan Island, a modest crossing of about one nautical mile.

Once reaching Allan island we slowed to enjoy the interesting rocks and coves. It was a good place to practice rudder and paddling strokes. Ron investigated a 55 gallon drum adrift in hopes of discovering smugglers rum, but it was just full of sea water. We began the half mile crossing from Allan Island to the Burrows Island lighthouse around 11:00. There was a westward current and a moderate headwind on the port quarter. We reached the beach just north of the

lighthouse in about a half an hour. Nice beach! Pat practiced a new exit technique! Good thing she had on her dry suit. After a short scramble up some rocks and the old Coast Guard stairway to the lighthouse we found a picnic site with a sweeping view of Rosario Strait. We explored the abandoned crew's quarters and took note of a red flowering current in full bloom, wild roses and bluebells.

After lunch we headed north into the wind and against a weak current. Ron saw a sea otter in the rocks. The water calmed on the north side of Burrow's and a favorable current helped take us past Young Island and to Allan Island. We crossed to Fidalgo Island, The porpoises were still there. Linda wanted us to sing sea chanties. We didn't know any sea shanties, so Dave sang his rendition of The Lion Sleeps Tonight. We didn't see the dolphins anymore after that. Near Rosario Beach we ran into what Bernie will fondly recall as "Bernie's Navy", six or more of the wooden boats, just like his. Where was the photographer? Back in Burrows Bay, Dave practiced rolling his kayak. Dan was taking his picture but missed it so Dave rolled again. This time Dan captured the shot. We landed at 3:30, after a trip of about 12 1/2 nautical miles. We packed up in light showers and bid our friends good day.

Thank you Linda for leading us on this fun day.

Sea Fever

I MUST go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a gray mist on the sea's face, and a gray dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's like a whetted
knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

John Masefield

Trip Report: Yellow Island

by **Kristi Krunch**

Yellow Island is known for it's wildflowers, and did not disappoint this year. Friday we took various ferries over to Shaw Island, and camped at the county park. Indian Cove is the only public launch on the island; we drove around and double checked just in case the books were wrong. Friday night Greg joined us just to car camp, and we welcomed his company. Some of us stayed up far too late singing songs to accompany Dave on the harmonica.

Saturday morning dawned with a little wind, but no rain. Our group of grew to nine paddlers with the addition of John. He paddled over from his home on Lopez. We paddled to Yellow via San Juan Channel to take advantage of the tailwind. Yellow Island was positively ablaze with yellow from buttercups, red from Indian paintbrush, and blues from the camas. After a lap around the island, we paddled a short distance to Little McConnely Island for a lunch

break. Still no rain. We paddled back to camp on the north side of Shaw Island, stopping for a break at Blind Island. Washington Water Trails Association was having a work party on Blind Island. They were working with State Parks to clear the trails, clean up, and eliminate scotch broom. They had a huge pile to burn later. We'll see them again at our swap meet, they'll have a booth explaining WWTA's mission of keeping sites available for non-motorized users. Thanks so much guys! When we returned to camp, we had a feast of appetizers, then dinner. The rain finally decided to show up Saturday night. A few folks decided to make for the mainland and avoid a night camping in the rain.

We hit the early ferry on Sunday morning, and had lovely weather again. By the time we hit Bellingham, it was back to the rain. Thanks to Rosemary, Dave, Sharon, Richard & Jackie, Lisa, Greg, John, and Tracy for a great trip.

Trip Report : Bowman Bay to Burrows Island

by **James Graeser**

What a great day for a paddle. Sixteen of us departed Haggen's Parking lot at 0930H heading for Fir Islands Wildlife Boat Launch just over the bridge from Conway. After the usual forgetting-yours truly didn't place his paddle in the van and of course didn't bring a spare. As is usually the case one of the group, this time Pat, came to the rescue with a spare paddle and all was not lost.

The grind upriver is always interesting with the easier part in the eddies or along the inside curve of the river rather than the extra effort of the fastest current. At the "Y" below and in sight of the Conway Bridge we broke for lunch and tales of daring-do. After all had divulged their best of tales we started the easy "float" down river to the delta. Twas pleasant poking into some obscure channels and choosing to bisect the island on one of the minor streams.

Of course all was not perfect. The delta as usual was shallow and at one time or another

we all poled and pushed aver submerged hillocks. The return upriver was punctuated with some disagreement as to which path to follow (a usual occurrence on this trip). While most paddled up the correct channel, Dave Peebles and Jim Graeser scouted North to establish that this was in truth the correct part and it was. We followed the main group some while later, Chris Mitchell having come out to find and bury the drowned bodies that had strayed off the straight and narrow. Good Trip - Good Folks.



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**Frank & Carol
Schultz**

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Wake 2003 Calendar of Paddles and Events

Month	Dates	Destination	Contact/Skill Level
May	16-19	18th Annual Coast Kayak Symposium - 3 1/2 days of hands on training and seminars. Held on Thetis Island in the Canadian Gulf Islands	Contact: Mercia Sixta 604-597-1122 or mercias@telus.net
	17-18	7th Annual San Juan Challenge - Five different kayak races, Anacortes, Wa.	www.sanjuanchallenge.org
	17-18	Lummi DNR Campsite Work Weekend Launch early on the 17th, spend day building and digging, then return on the afternoon of the 18th. Brains and Brawn needed. You can also day trip down to the site. Contact: Lisa Wallis 360-756-7553 or trekkin@fidalgo.net	Contact: Lisa Wallis 360-756-7553 or
	20	WAKE Meeting Kayak Navigation Workshop with Chris Mitchell. Learn more than just the basics of navigation but some very useful tips as well. Contact Lisa Wallis	Fairhaven Library doors open at 7, meeting begins at 7:30
	23-26	WAKE Surf Trip to Makah Bay - A weekend of kayak surfing on the gentle swells of Makah Bay on the Olympic Peninsula. A great place to learn or practice your surfing, bracing and wet exit skills	Contact: Andy Wallis 360-756-7553 or
	23-26	WAKE Paddle on Sechelt Inlet. " Please contact Rosemary for all the details Rosemary Patschke patschke@dowco.com (this trip is now full...look for it again next year)	
June	8	WAKE Paddle through Deception Pass - Paddle through the pass at slack tide so even novices can experience the beauty of this local treasure. Launch time is tide dependent so please contact the trip leader beforehand. Contact: Chris Mitchell 360-855-1090 or falcon.eighteen@verizon.net for launch times and skill level	
	14	Kayakathon in Seattle - Participate in a fundraiser for the Schooner Adventuress by paddling from Eagle Harbo, Bainbridge Island to Tillicum Village on Blake Island and return contact: Maria Cook (206) 842-1179	
	20-22	WAKE Summer Solstice Paddle & Hike - Leave Friday the 20th after work-launch around 6 p.m. and camp on Cypress Head. Plan on hiking or paddling on Saturday then paddling home on Sunday (We are known to enjoy hot wings at the Brown Lantern in Anacortes after our trips. Contact Lisa Wallis 360-756-7553 or trekkin@fidalgo.net for trip info.	
	28	WAKE Lake Padden potluck and skills building day. Bring your favorite dish to share and your kayak to participate in a day of skill building and eating. Enjoy some time working on paddle strokes, rescues and general skills as well as a lot more. ACA certified kayak instructors will be on-site. Open to all members and non-members. Time TBA Contact: Andy Wallis 360-756-7553 or trekkin@fidalgo.net or Les Rounds 360-966-2276 or rounds@az.com	
July	Date TBA	WAKE Paddle to Kuyuquot Sound A week-long paddle on Kuyuquot Sound probably paddling on the Mission Group, side trips to various islands and campgrounds possible. you must be a strong paddler and have rescue skills to consider going on this trip. Dates to be decided later. Contact: Jim Graer ser 738-9382 or jim_kayak@attbi.com	

The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

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Les Rounds (966-2276).....rounds@az.com.....Vice President
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Kristi Hug (676-4110).....kristi_krunch@hotmail.com.....Trip Coordinator
Jim Graeser(738-9382).....jim_kayak@attbi.com.....Mem. of Board

W.A.K.E. Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail with \$20.00 to W.A.K.E. P.O. Box 1952, Bellingham, WA 98227 Annual dues 1/1 to 12/31. Membership is \$20 and \$10 after July 1st

WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts

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