



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



June 2003

Volume 22, Issue 6

A Message From Your Board

By Richard Cochinos

I had the pleasure of attending the 18th Annual Coast Kayak Symposium at Thetis Island, B.C. on May 16-19. It takes place every year over Victoria Day weekend, a Canadian holiday.

In my opinion, this is the best kayak instruction bargain in North America—four days of land and on water classes for \$335.00 U.S.

This includes the chartered ferry, lodging, all meals and all instruction. The learning event is suitable for beginners, intermediate and advanced paddlers.

Examples of land classes are navigation, weather interpretation, fitting your kayak, repairing your kayak, and electronic aids. Some of the on water classes were beginner strokes, intermediate strokes, beginning and intermediate rescue, rolling, endurance paddling, support strokes, stroke improvement, etc. Music, slide shows, campfires, and additional classes rounded out the evenings. Approximately 160 kayakers attended this year plus 40 instructors. All the instructors donate their time and expertise. Instructors who

are WAKE members are Gene Davis, Sterling Donalson, Jim Graeser, John Janney, Reg Lake and Chris Mitchell.

The Coast Kayak Symposium Committee, all volunteers who donate their time and energy, is headed by Mercia Sixta. The symposium is a non-commercial event; nothing is sold. Demo boats and equipment are free and

available to all, made possible by the support of Brooks wetsuits, Nimbus kayaks and paddles, Seaward, and Spirit Line kayaks, and Western Canoe and Kayak.

A highlight of the weekend that I haven't mentioned was the

meals and snacks for hungry kayakers prepared by Chef Gerd Voight and his staff. Absolutely top notch!

This was my third year to attend. Before going I had decided that it would be my last time for awhile, skipping a few years before going back. However, I learned so much and had such a good time I decided to make it an annual event,

There is no meeting this month

There will be a DNR training meeting on the 17th at Fairhaven Library in the room across from our usual meeting place by Kathy Gunther, the Natural Areas Steward for the DNR and Lisa Wallis **7 p.m.**

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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

We have a shortened newsletter this month...everyone must be taking advantage of the good weather and be out paddling. I guess that means I'm going to be inundated with some wonderful trip reports for the July newsletter!!!

In this issue we have an updated trip report from Lisa Wallis on the continuing Lummi Island DNR cleanup and another trip report from Jim Graeser on the Skagit Delta paddle.

On a personal note, I finally got to do an overnight camping paddle with WAKE on the Sechelt Inlet trip, unfortunately due to some injuries and lack of time I had been unable in the past to participate in any of these WAKE paddles. I know that will come as a surprise to many members, most think because I do the newsletter that I'm an experienced savvy paddler. Honestly my skills as a paddler are pretty good, but as a kayak camper I do a good news-

letter. I'd certainly like to thank those of you who helped me out on the trip and to make it successful...now if I only didn't get that nasty heat rash all over my body it would've been a total success...you live and learn...Overall it was a great experience and I look forward to repeating it often.

I hope everyone is enjoying this good weather we've been having and enjoying some excellent and safe paddling

Scott

**FOR SALE: Women's size small
Kokatat Gortex Dry Suit.
EXCELLENT CONDITION.
Features gortex feet, zippered drop
seat and shoulder zippered pockets.
\$545.00, Diane or Steve Lake 425-746-
1453, or email dianelake@att.net**

You Know Your a Kayaker When

A part of your lawn is dying because you're washing the saltwater off your boat in the same place.

The Maytag repairman says the washing machine died because there was an excessive amount of sand in it.

You have at least one Seakayaker Magazine in the bathroom library.

You cost justify buying that really expensive clothes dryer because of it's ultra low heat setting that is perfect for drying the drysuit you used Saturday so it's dry & ready for a Sunday paddle.

You know that a biadarka isn't a Russian musical instrument or a Middle Eastern desert made with almonds.

Your car lives in the street so your kayak can stay in the garage.

You have more pictures taken during kayaking trips in your house than you do of family members.

And in the trunk of your car there lives a decomposing old towel with seaweed and sand permanently embedded in it... and no, you won't wash it because the last time you did your washing machine ground to a halt.

Terry Growler

Message from the Board

a learning one as well as a tune up of my skills before the start of the summer kayak season. I enthusiastically encourage every WAKE member to attend next year.

On June 28 Andy Wallis and Les Rounds will be holding a skills building clinic at Lake Padden. Bring a potluck dish to share and a kayak to use! The instruction is open to both members and nonmembers. Check the WAKE website for details. Don't miss this opportunity to improve.

The Board decided that the club should have some trips suitable for beginners. I intend

to lead 3 trips early in the season for new paddlers. The first will be on Lake Whatcom, the second on Lake Samish and the third on salt water from Fairhaven Marine Park to Chuckanut Bay. Lake Whatcom paddle will be June 22. It will be a chance to become familiar with your equipment and more confident by paddling in relatively calm waters. Call me at 671-4502 for starting time and location. I will be out of town between June 15-20 but will respond to any calls either before or after my return. Dates for the next two trips will be posted on the web site shortly.

Trip Report - Lummi DNR Clean-up Pt. II

by Lisa and Andy Wallis

WAKE members Red, Les, Dave, Dale, Andy and Lisa were joined by some crazy Canadians for a paddle to the Lummi DNR site. I had complained to Merve that I was the only female on the trip, hoping for preferential princess type treatment while out with the boys. Merve being Merve, would have nothing of that. So, the old love showed up at the drenched launch site with four beautiful Canadian babes. I was all the better for it, cuz these girls sure new how to paddle and hang on the beach! Bean, Gina, Yvonne and Jill - thank you for making it a great weekend! WAKE also enjoyed the company of a couple of young recruits by DALE, thanks to Cassidy and Jeff for working and sharing camp fire cheer.

The weekend went great. We repaired the stairs on the north beach that were taken out last summer by winter storms. We used beach logs for stringers and 2x12's for stairs. The stairs were galvanized by Red's chain saw - and could be known as the Red Galvin Memorial staircase, except that old Red is still alive and kicking hard, what with all that RED MEAT he consumes.

We also dug some holes and installed new interpretive signs that explain that the area is a Natural Resource Conservation area. If you need a grave dug, just call Les Rounds. He is an

expert at rock removal from deep holes - but don't ask Dave Harris for rock moving advise - you'll end up with a hernia and back ache! Empty posts by the outhouses were also removed, and we widened the trail a bit at that critical juncture where men and women must go their separate ways in the world.

We did fix a couple of the treads this past weekend on the stairs that go up to the island, and we believe that these will last a while. We also removed a rogue campsite from the island and dispersed fire rings on the beach.

Steel spikes were used to reinforce the trail that had been knocked out by a cedar tree on the south end of the area, and which had been partially repaired earlier this season. Dave had pre-made a new wooden cover for the sign in area, and it looks great.

Naturally, the outhouses were cleaned - the grand finale to a successful work weekend.

WAKE spent about \$40 this weekend on materials. This money went for treated wood for the steps and nails. Dave and Red also donated some supplies. Thanks to Kathy Gunther for delivering the wood for the steps as well as other supplies. Also, a special thanks to Red for paddling his canoe out on two work weekends in order to transport the proper tools and materials - not to mention his teepee and wood stove and cooler and

Trip Report : Skagit Delta Paddle

by **Jim 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 over 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

DNR Trips Updated

July 9 & 10. Overnight Lummi DNR trip Wednesday & Thursday We'll take a mid week break and do some clean up, light maintenance (if Lisa's crew doesn't have it all done by then) and some fun hanging out. I can shift this trip to July 8 & 9 if needed. (Tues & Wed.) Kristi

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- 7 p.m. - Fairhaven Library north room [just across the hall from our usual room., 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.

Wake 2003 Calendar of Paddles and Events

Month Dates Destination

Contact/Skill Level

June 14 WAKE Lummi Island DNR Campground Maintenance Trip WAKE members will journey to the campsite Saturday and do general maintenance on the site. Not as strenuous as it sounds, we always have lots of fun and, of course, eat lots of food. Everyone welcome Contact **Lisa Wallis 360-756-7553** or **trekkin@fidalgo.net**

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.

22 WAKE Beginner's Paddle Lake Whatcom paddle suitable for new and beginner kayakers. This is a great opportunity to become familiar and more confident with your equipment in relatively calm waters. NOTE: Trip leader will be out of town from June 15-20, but will respond to all messages either before the 15th or on the 21st. Contact **Richard Cochinos (360) 671-4502** or **RichardCochinos@msn.com**

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 9-10 .Overnight Lummi DNR trip Wednesday & Thursday We'll take a mid week break and do some clean up, light maintenance (if Lisa's crew doesn't have it all done by then) and some fun hanging out. I can shift this trip to July 8 & 9 if needed. (Tues & Wed.) Contact: **Kristi Hug (676-4110** or **kristi_krunch@hotmail.com**

16-22 WAKE paddle to Kyuquot Sound A week-long paddle on Kyuquot 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 Graeriser 738-9382** or **jim_kayak@attbi.com** *Trip is full-try again next year*

25-26 WAKE Lummi Island DNR Campground Maintenance Trip WAKE members will journey to the campsite Saturday and do general maintenance on the site. Not as strenuous as it sounds, we always have lots of fun and, of course, eat lots of food. Everyone welcome. Contact: **Lisa Wallis 360-756-7553** or **trekkin@fidalgo.net**

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The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

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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

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