



September 2003

Volume 22, Issue 8

A Message From Your Board

By Lisa Wallis

This summer has offered a great kayaking season! Kayaking is amazing. It is like backpacking on the water. You embrace the ecosystem you travel through. The sea is like a big living, breathing organism, and when you are in your kayak, you are breathing and moving with it. It's a feeling that's hard to find anywhere else.

Bellingham offers many fantastic local destinations such as Lummi Island, Wildcat Cove, Chuckanut Bay, Padilla Bay and easy access to the San Juans and beyond. These areas offer the paddler a diversity of

experiences. Various water challenges, wildlife and stunning vistas abound. The western shore of Lummi Island is a really dramatic example. Steep cliffs, nesting raptors, wildflowers, otters and seals swimming along the rocks all contribute to a sense of well being and harmony on the paddle.

A favorite author of mine quipped that "education is experience, and the essence of experience is self reliance" (T. H. White). No where is this more true than while kayaking. As

another old timer of mine always quipped, one needs a true sense of self and purpose when kayaking, for "one is truly alone in a kayak" (Werner Furrer). I personally have spent more time trekking in the mountains than paddling my boat, but I have come to realize the truth of these sentiments. There is a difference between terra firma and aqua. The difference is that air is

abundant when right side up above water, even at higher altitudes. But also of note is that skills hold one afloat when paddling, vs. just pure stamina keeping one trekking along a tough trail or going in adverse conditions [-

take note, I am not talking about mountain climbing Everest!]. I love both the mountains and the sea. I believe that my years of being self reliant in the mountains prepared me for paddling and camping on the sea. Perhaps the reverse is true?

WAKE has provided a great service to the Lummi DNR site this year. We have managed several trips out to the site every month. It looks so beautiful. I have camped on

Cont. on page 2

**Sept club meeting
Sept. 16th, Fairhaven Library**
Reg Lake will speak for us on the September meeting. He will explore some of the early days of paddling - both white water and sea kayaking.
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 kayakManufacturers 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

Message from the Board cont.

several San Juan sites this summer. I have been to Pelican and Cypress head, Obstruction Pass State Park, Blind Island, Jones Island, James Island, Shaw Island, and San Juan Island. I can report to you with full confidence that our site is the cleanest and happiest of any of those sites. We enjoy good nature, good vistas and good spirits on Lummi. What a gem. I thank all of you who provided trip reports to me throughout the summer. Kristina Burkhart, Kristi Hug, Ed Alm. Dave Harris, Red Galvin, Andy Wallis, and all of you who have visited the site - THANK YOU! And for all of you other folks who visited but did not register, numbers and statistics help the cause! Please register your trip, even if you are not an official volunteer you further our cause to keep the area open.

WAKE welcomes a new newsletter editor this year. Thank you Ted Ullman for

volunteering for this important position for WAKE! Volunteers are what make this club function. Kudos for all club volunteers and participants!!

Update for those of you who read about my gimpy wrist. It healed with some sacrifices on my part. I scarcely paddled for a month. Then I did a little paddle in mid-July to the Lummi DNR site, which went well. The last weekend of July I paddled from Sydney, B.C. to Anarcortes. Beautiful trip, my wrist was sore and I complied with a wrist brace, but I felt good. Now I am heading out to Tofino to paddle to Hot Springs Cove. I managed a decent paddling year despite the Dequervaine's syndrome. Hurrah!

Happy spirits and nature to all of you on the water. POD-HO!

Lisa W

Safety Tips

Wear sun protection! Water intensifies the sun. Protect yourself from skin cancer. I recommend the following:

- 1. Sunscreen: Bull Frog "The Quick Gel Sport Spray"** - This is a SPF 36 All day waterproof and sweatproof UVA/UVB Protection spray that dries instantly. A little pumping action (and no hand rubbing) seems to result in even skin coverage. My dermatologist recommended this, which may be my gear find of the season! **Not for the face!!!**
- 2. Cotz SPF58 Waterproof UVA/UVB** which contains only titanium and zinc. For the Face. Expensive but seems to go a long way.
- 3. Wear a hat.** I have a new 5 inched brimmed hat that covers my ears, face and neck. I also recommend carrying a hand sanitizer. Purell and other companies make travel size containers of these products that fit easily into your ditty bag. I carry mine along with my toilet paper in a little baggie....

Happy Paddling.....Lisa W

Lummi Island Update

by David Harris

Trip Report

August 31, 2003

Linda, Rosemary, Carol and I paddled from Gooseberry Point to Reil Harbor on August 31. We had a wonderful day of paddling and performed some light maintenance at the campground. We found a seal pup on the beach by the Red Galvin Staircase. We all had a belly laugh watching a couple in a good sized cruiser waste several gallons of fuel moving their boat twenty feet to check a crab trap as they filled the harbor with dense gray smoke.

Listed below are some comments taken from the questionnaire box at Reil Harbor August 2003.

* Thanks WAKE for maintaining this site! It is an integral overnight stop for kayakers departing from Bellingham heading to the San Juans.

* This is a truly exceptional place to visit in many ways. We brought children for a great camping experience.

* Please keep this site open. It's much enjoyed.

A very special place to me.

* This is an exceptional spot. I find it to be a refuge for not only wildlife, but also myself and plan on returning frequently.

* This is a wonderfully beautiful site in Whatcom County. My favorite spot! Brought 9 new people here today and we built memories that will last a lifetime!! Thank you DNR.

* We feel like Tom Sawyer and Becky. This is the most wonderful place. Read about WAKE's work here in the WWTa newsletter. Deluxe job. Thanks.

Thanks go out to the three ladies who accompanied me on this day trip.

David Harris

Other News

by Lisa Wallis

WAKE was mentioned in 'Canoe and Kayak' this August of 2003! Reed Wait of WWTa gave a summary of the fight to keep the water trails open. In his report he mentioned WAKE's effort to maintain the Lummi DNR site. Pick it up - we are on page 13 in the "Sound Off". The article serves as a good reminder for us to maintain our WWTa memberships, as this great organization is what keeps the island sites available for all of us. Get involved!

Many members of WAKE have participated in the Coast Kayak Symposium held on Thetis Island every year. For those of you who have participated, Mercia Sixta has most likely made a lasting impression. The 2003 September/ October issue of 'Paddler' magazine has recognized Mercia and other "Old Schoolers who Still Rock the Boat". Mercia is recognized for her hard work at Thetis, but more importantly for her dedication to assisting disabled paddlers. We locals are lucky indeed to have the likes of Mercia in our back yard! To see the article, go to page 46 of 'Paddler'.



2460 Salashan Loop • PO Box 5005
Ferndale, WA 98248
(360) 366-4005 • 800-8-KAYAKS
FAX (360) 366-2628 • (800) 543-5217
www.oceankayak.com

<http://www.seakayakshop.com>



Anacortes, Wa. 360-299-2300

How I Became a Sea Kayak Enthusiast

by Norm Nielsen

I remember The Moment well. It happened on a crummy Denver Sunday afternoon in late April 1984. The weather alternated between rain and sleet - too crummy to ski or hike. So I drove to one of my favorite hangouts, REI, to check out gear. The cover of a book on the bookshelves caught my attention. The book was John Dowd's *Sea Kayaking A Manual for Long-Distance Touring*. The cover photo captured the upper bodies of two men behind a sunlit wave and holding synchronized paddles that appeared to touch a rain cloud above - a classic, well-composed adventure photograph. I thumbed through the book. My eyes stopped on a photo of George Dyson's 45-foot, 6-man baidarka with 3 sails and 6 plastic domes. It looked like a cross between a Native American canoe, a 19th century sailing vessel, and a 1950s Hollywood sci-fi spaceship. (This was an accurate observation of the baidarka's design parameters I learned years later from reading Kenneth Brower's biography of Mr. Dyson and his father in *The Starship and the Canoe*). "Cool" I thought. I continued thumbing through the book. I took in pictures of sea kayakers paddling among float ice and Orca pods. Other kayakers were pictured in front of tropical beaches. There was a picture of a lone kayaker propelled by a parafoil kite. Then I fixated on a picture of George Dyson's three-man baidarka at sea the sail of which doubled as a tent. That was it - The Moment. "Wow," I thought. "If I ever live near big water, I'll sea kayak."

The Moment was pure fantasy, for I knew almost nothing about sea kayaking. Besides, I lived almost 1,000 miles from big water. I did know a little about the sport though. My friend Chuck Patterson had built a Klepper kit Folboat in front of his trailer in Boulder about two years prior. Chuck called it a sea kayak; however, he only used it to float the Rio Grande River through Big Bend National Park every winter. To me the Folboat looked like a partially

enclosed cloth-covered canoe. I didn't get why Chuck preferred a seemingly fragile boat instead of the sturdy fiberglass or aluminum canoes common in the Rockies, but Chuck is a Bohemian iconoclast and an extreme gearhead - hence the bond of our friendship. I dismissed the Folboat as another of Chuck's "I'm different" statements. When I pressed him, Chuck defended the wood-framed Folboat's seaworthiness with a claim that a German named Lindemann had paddled one solo across the Atlantic Ocean in the late 1920s. To me this sounded like a pre-Nazi "Ubberman" story. I was skeptical.

Three years later, in December 1987, my girlfriend Cathy and I had just returned to Denver from an 11-month trip around the world. On our trip we had decided to move to Washington State because Colorado is too arid and cowboyish. Also, Cathy wanted to be closer to her parents who lived near Bellingham. I went Christmas shopping at REI. Again I saw a copy of John Dowd's *Sea Kayaking*. I bought it for Cathy and wrapped it well. We spent that Christmas at her parents' house. Upon opening her gift, Cathy thumbed through the book. She looked at me quizzically. I said, "Since we're moving to Washington, I think we should take up sea kayaking." Cathy said, "Great idea. I'm for it." Then she kissed me.

Flash forward to 2003. Cathy and I studied the book, took some lessons, and have paddled confidently together for more than 14 years. I'm no longer skeptical about Folboats being seaworthy. I am WAKE's ever so responsible treasurer. When someone asks how I became a sea kayak enthusiast, I reply that John Dowd and George Dyson inspired me.

Wake 2003 Calendar of Paddles and Events

Month **Dates** **Destination** **Contact/Skill Level**

September **13** Tri-Club Picnic - WAKE once again joins with Hole in the Wall (Skagit) and North Sound Sea Kayak Association (NSSKA - Everett) to celebrate being kayakers in this great part of the world. We'll start with a group paddle at 12:30pm, return to Bowman Bay for a paddlefloat rescue contest at 4:00pm, followed by a salmon BBQ & Potluck at 4:30pm. Contact: Mary Bauman 766-4265 or Kathea Rasmussen 766-8720, at Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State park from Noon to 6:00 p.m.

15 - 20 WAKE Paddle on Ross Lake - Suitable for all paddlers (beginner, intermediate and advanced) Hiking, fishing and swimming. Contact: Richard Cochinos (360)671-4502 RichardCochinos@msn.com

16 WAKE September Meeting-Reg Lake will speak exploring the early days of both Sea and White Water kayaking ; 7:00 p.m. at Fairhaven Library. Contact: Lisa Wallis (360) 756-7553

PS - There's now a \$5 charge for parking at Bowman Bay, so carpool or bring some money

19 -21 20th Annual West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium - The premier sea kayak symposium in North America, 3 days of boat demos, classes, on-water clinics, presentations, contests, and sunshine. Volunteers are needed to work the event & get a free 3-day pass and T-shirt - sign up at the website.

October **21**WAKE October Meeting-Andy Bridge of Werner Paddles will have a slide show and talk about his whitewater kayak trip across Borneo. They don't get any wilder than this! 7:00 p.m. at Fairhaven Library. Contact: Lisa Wallis (360) 756-7553

The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

Lisa Wallis (756-7553).....trekkin@fidalgo.net.....President
Les Rounds (966-2276).....rounds@az.com.....Vice President
Norm Nielsen (647-2531).....nnconsulting@attbi.com.....Treasurer
Richard Cochinos (671-4502).....RichardCochinos@msn.com.....Secretary

Tom Emrich.....webdude@wakekayak.org.....Webmaster
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

P.O. Box 1952

Bellingham, WA 98227