



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



September 2004

Volume 2 Issue 6

A Message from your Board *By Kristi Hug*

Fashion police raid WAKE Vice President's closet

"It's true! I do wear fleece socks with sandals, but only with long pants! And yes, I'll admit to shorts over long johns. And ok, twist my arm, even multiple layers of fleece in a gaudy rainbow of colors," said Kristi.

Well, it seems that way anyhow, as the weather gets a little cooler, we here in the northwest just seem to add layers. By February we'll all be bundled up, but for now it's just a light jacket ... and much to the chagrin of the Southern California types, socks with sandals. We still have plenty of time to watch our summer slip gently into another Pacific Northwest fall. It's good to take a look back before we step out onto the catwalk of winter, and it's best to watch this seasonal makeover from the seat of our kayaks.

Whatcom Parks and Recreation department is facing some budget restructuring. In a nutshell, the outdoor program has to pay it's own way. Likely this will mean a few cutbacks on the number and types of classes. Fortunately, the last thing they will cut is the safety classes and training. WAKE will help them

out as we can, for example by listing their trips and classes on our website. We'll keep you posted on any developments.

A big thanks to Richard Cochinos for putting together the volunteer appreciation day at Sudden Valley. It was a great afternoon of barbeque, company, paddling and playing. I'll never forget the sight of paddlers creeping up on the boats to play 'kiss the bow'. Yes, I too fell in after kissing my

bow. I think it was a nice way to say thanks to those who helped out at the swap meet and leading trips all year. Thanks also to John Janney for his dedication to the Saturday paddles. They have been going strong and WAKE and the paddlers thank you John. Remember, the Saturday paddles go all

year. Meet at the Sehome Starbucks at 9 a.m.

The West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium in Port Townsend is coming up again 17-19 September. You can visit their website by clicking the link on the WAKE website. The symposium is not only a great

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Sept 21st club meeting
Fairhaven Library
Doors open at 7:00, meeting starts 7:30

Slide show by Bryan Smith
Bryan and his team became the first to paddle the Lohit River in Indian part of the Himalayas. Bring you seat belts

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"

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opportunity to try out boats, but there are also a number of classes and lectures on all facets of kayaking.

Coming up at the end of the year, we will have our traditional holiday party. We are moving to the Zuanich boathouse, which will be a larger building for our party. Also starting next year, the monthly meetings will be at the main branch of the library. These larger spaces will give more space to our growing membership.

There's still time this fall with some great trips on the books and probably some great weather in store, but I'll be bringing my fashionable rain dress, complete with rubber ladybug boots just to be on the safe ... I mean fashionable side!

This Month's Meeting Featured Speaker Bryan Smith

Come join Bryan for an evening of slides, stories, and video of this amazing adventure. He will also be sharing plans of another adventure back to this remote region of India for the first descent of the Dibang River in 2005. After the success of the Lohit, Bryan's team has quickly become an icon and catalyst for adventure tourism in Arunachal. The Dibang Expedition will be a two folded expedition aiming to an run a longer, steeper, and bigger multi day river, as well as continue to help stabilize the region through examples of sustainable adventure based tourism. See more about Bryan and pictures on the web addition of the newsletter on page 4.

STERLING DONALDSON KAYAK WIZARD



Every kayaker in Whatcom County knows Sterling Donaldson, if they don't they should. Sterling has been building and paddling kayaks since 1985. He's six-foot-three and built like a bear - too much bulk for an ordinary kayak - and he has only one leg. When he was 15, he developed bone cancer in his right knee. When he first got interested in kayaking he couldn't find a commercial boat that would fit him. The lack of a suitable boat didn't stop him from becoming a kayaker. He did some research, bought the materials, and designed and built his own big boat. Instead of the usual kayak steering system, in which the rudder is controlled by cables to two foot-pegs, he devised a one-foot method. After a number of careers Sterling is employed full time in his new 2500 sq. foot shop with the work he loves best, building and repairing kayaks. Sterling has a

number of irons in the fire. He is building his own custom boats called the Sucia a light, fast boat selling for just under \$2000. He is also making kids boats and play boats. He is working with Bob Two Good of Hawaii making 21 foot surf skis weighing in at 21 lbs. The Mako pro is an 11 time world champion boat. He really enjoys excelling at working with cutting edge materials and technologies. His process of resin infusing under extreme vacuum helps keep his boats ultra light. Sterling also makes time to teach at the West Coast Kayak Symposium each year. If you're looking for a new boat or want to fix up your trusty old craft go see Sterling at 899 Kline Road. But for repairs Sterling warns "bring them in the winter, not just before kayak season starts."

STERLING DONALDSON





*BRYAN
SMITH*



Help Save Whatcom County Parks Outdoor Program

Most WAKE members are familiar with the Whatcom County Parks Outdoor Recreation Program because that's where we got our first introduction to kayaking. Over the years thousands of people have had the same experience, and not just with kayaks. They also offer ski, hiking, cycling, mountaineering, and other types of trips. One of the great things about living in Whatcom County is the wide variety of world-class recreation opportunities, and the Outdoor Recreation Program has been an integral part of that lifestyle. Now the Outdoor Program is under threat of extinction.

The County Council is very seriously considering either doing away with the Outdoor Program, or cutting it back to a half-time position running a limited number of local one day trips, with cost-cutting as the overriding priority. The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, Carl Prince, has made a number of changes this year that have increased participation and decreased the cost to the county, but more time is needed to fully implement them and assess their effect. The Council probably won't give them the time unless we raise our voices and let them know how important the program is to us, voters and taxpayers.

Here are some numbers to ponder: The 2004 County budget is \$126 million, the 2004 Parks budget is \$3.1 million, and the Outdoor Recreation Program 2004 budget is \$150,000. We're talking about less than 5% of the Parks budget, and less than .001% of the county budget. That's not a lot of money, folks!

I encourage anyone who cares about the Outdoor Recreation Program to contact the Whatcom County Council members and Pete Kremen, the County Executive, and tell them how you feel about the Program and how its loss would affect you and the county. You can find all the contact information here - <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council/index.jsp>. Remember, personal contact by phone or a written letter is best, as that shows you're willing to take the time to support your cause. Emails are still good but don't carry as much weight. Make your letter personal, about your experience and feelings. And be sure to contact as many Council members as you can, they all need to hear from us!

I'll leave you with one parting thought, as said by Steve Hindman, past owner of Great Adventure: **If the Outdoor Program goes away, it will never come back.** Please don't let this happen without a fight.

The Northwest Straits Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation will be conducting a training for our water quality monitoring program, known as the "Blue Water Task Force" on September 28th 6:30 PM at Boulevard Park. It's easy, it's fun, and if you need another excuse to go wading in the water (which I doubt) it's for a good cause. For current results check www.surfrider.org/bwtfoutput.asp. Need more info? Call Nancy Heiser 715-8177 or Ian Miller 360-808-1103 imiller@surfrider.org

CHRIS MITCHELL'S DECEPTION PASS JULY KAYAK SEMINAR



DECEPTION PASS -- A few seconds can seem like forever when your kayak is tilted on its starboard rocker in a 4-knot current and your right ear is on the verge of splashing into the salty sea. You hang there precariously like a boulder on a cartoon cliff, one-one thousand, two-one thousand, three-one thousand, before reflexively lifting your paddle out of the current -- where it never should have been -- and flexing your body at the hips toward the port. You pop upright; your head feels the flush of relief, then embarrassment. Our Hats are off to Chris for this great seminar. 34 Paddlers enjoyed and learned a lot on this seminar. Gene Davis and Andy Wallis we able assistants for the day.

Thanks Chris!

To see the whole article go to your computer and type in
[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/
getaways/183006_kayak22.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/getaways/183006_kayak22.html)

The Best of Lopez Island... (AKA... Gourmet Paddling!) By John Montgomery

Although everyone usually learns something during a WAKE trip, my new goal as trip leader is to maximize information sharing to the greatest extent possible and, fortunately, I was able to try out some of my ideas during the trip I led on Lopez Island over Labor Day Weekend. You'll have to ask Sharon, Mac, or Mike what they thought about it, but I felt it went extremely well.

On Friday afternoon, folks set up camp around the pond and we spent the rest of the day relaxing in the sun and talking about all sorts of kayaking-related topics. We also picked a ton of strawberries from my garden and had sliced berries and ice cream for dessert!

It was on the chilly side, however, when we launched into San Juan Channel the next morning and crossed over to San Juan Island. After lunch at Jackle's Lagoon, we cruised down to Cattle Pass and hopped out of our boats to study a long line of breaking waves just outside the pass. These breakers were created as the ebbing tide slid through Cattle Pass and slammed into the wind and waves rolling in from the Strait of Juan de Fuca. After watching a couple 30-foot sailboats get tossed around in this stuff we choose a fairly aggressive ferry angle to cross back over to Davis Point on Lopez Island. Although we stayed well clear of the white stuff we still encountered a series of long broad waves that almost felt like ocean swell. At one point, I watched Mac totally disappear from my view as he sunk into a trough.

After nearing Davis Point, we allowed the current to carry us outward through bouncy water and then we had the joy of riding two-foot following seas and 20-knot tailwinds all the way back to MacKaye Harbor where we'd left a shuttle car. It was a very exhilarating ten-mile paddle and I was quite happy with the way our little group performed. After hot showers at the cabin, Sharon, Mike, and Mac treated me to a wonderful dinner at The Galley Restaurant and then we returned home for HOME-MADE APPLE CRISP and ICE CREAM (unbelievably good!). Sunday turned out to be one of those incredible days in the San Juan's where the skies are blue and there's hardly a breath of wind. We launched at Agate Beach then made our way around Iceberg Point and the

rugged southern coast of Lopez Island. It was so calm, we cruised out around Colville Island before landing for lunch on a hot, pebbly beach. Then we paddled up Rosario Strait and into Lopez Pass where we took another break and did some rolling and rescue practice. After that we checked out Paul Allen's estate on Sperry Peninsula (can you believe he didn't invite us in for coffee?) then returned to Hunter Bay where we started yet another rolling session. Some people don't know when to quit! But hey, it felt good to keep hitting rolls after fourteen miles of paddling and two separate rolling sessions.

After showers and dinner, I made PLUM CRISP for dessert and we enjoyed it while viewing slides from my kayak trips to Baja and the west coast of Vancouver Island. I think it'd be safe to assume we all slept soundly that night. The next morning, we hiked up Chadwick Hill for a gorgeous view of the Olympics and North Cascades before heading for the ferry landing.

Thanks, Mike, Mac, and Sharon for a great weekend!

Local Business Pitches in with Clean Up

*Island Outfitters joins forces with
Anacortes Community Maritime Center*

Local business, Island Outfitters has joined forces with Anacortes Community Maritime Center in "Cleaning up the Bay Day", on Saturday, September 25, 2004 at 10:00AM. Bring your kayak over to Seafarer's Memorial Park and join Island Outfitters on this worthy cause. Free kayaks will be provided to the first 30 people that sign up. "We at Island Outfitters want to make this an annual event."

To get involved, sign up at Island Outfitters today. Prizes will be given for the largest, most unusual and funniest pieces of trash. So bring your family, bring your friends and help make this an annual event. Call Island Outfitters today at 299-2300.

KAYAKERS SEARCH FOR SPARTINA

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board has asked for help surveying specific areas of Whatcom County's intertidal zones for Spartina. Varieties of Spartina, saltwater dwelling cordgrasses, are invasive and can be extremely detrimental to shallow coastal areas. Club members John Janney and Sharon Lindsay have chosen areas, only accessible by boats, to conduct early and late summer surveys for the weed. A brief training course keyed the volunteers into what to observe in the hunt and introduced ligules, eyelash like fringes found at the base of the cordgrass leaf.

Spartina infestations have been found in British Columbia, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, San Juan, Kitsap, Jefferson and King counties. None has been found in Whatcom County to date. No Spartina species are native to Washington's intertidal zones. The weed was introduced through contaminated ballast water, packing materials for oyster spats and deliberate plantings for erosion control (1961). This stout saltwater marsh grass, which spreads by rhizomes and seeds, has the ability to trap sediment and has been used to stabilize mudflats, protect coastlines from erosion and provide fodder for grazing animals. Its vigorous growth habit and lack of natural controls soon made it an undesirable invader. Massive areas of Spartina can replace all natural vegetation, cause tidelands to rise due to trapped sediment, replace sloping mudflats with poorly drained marshes and may even block navigational channels. It also has the capability of detrimentally altering the salt marsh habitat of certain invertebrates and waterfowl.

For more information please contact the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Submitted by Sharon Lindsay, August 9, 2004

Enjoy Beach Haven Resort

we will be doing a fall special for **3 days for the price of two** for anyone who mentions reading it in your newsletter. "A cluster of private cabins tucked in along the northwest shore of Orcas Island, Beach Haven Resort is the ultimate San Juan getaway - complete with breathtaking views, wildlife, and a huge variety of outdoor recreation. Our secluded bay on the Northwest shore is the perfect place to launch your daily kayaking adventure. All cabins are furnished with wood burning stoves, full baths, kitchens and cozy living space. Each cabin has a secluded waterfront deck with a picnic table and BBQ."

Shayne, Justin, Alita & Kevin phone: 360-376-2288 website at www.beach-haven.com

Island Outfitters offers Expedition Planning Series

Island Outfitters will be starting a series called Expedition Planning Series beginning September 23, 2004. The sessions will focus on learning valuable skills that can apply to expedition paddling and sea kayak camping.

These sessions are free to the community. If you would like more information, please call Island Outfitters at 360-299-2300.

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



Calendar of Events

Every Saturday Short paddles in the Bellingham area - Meet at Sehome Village Starbucks @ 9:00AM

Sept 17-19 - West Coast Sea Kayak Symposium, Pt. Townsend

Sept 17-19 - The Crown Jewels of the San Juans, paddle Orcas, Patos, Sucia, and Matia!

Sept 21 - WAKE Monthly Meeting - Bryan Smith on the first descent of the Lohit River in India

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

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

Dec 3 - Annual WAKE Meeting & Potluck - **Squalicum Boathouse at Zuanich Park (new location!)**

Jan 1 - Annual WAKE New Year's Day Paddle & Brunch

Whatcom County Parks Kayak Trips

Sept 18 - Intro to Kayaking - 1/2 day class

Sept 19 - One-day Saltwater Class

Sept 25-26 - Cypress Island Overnight Trip

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

Sun. 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Tues. & Thurs. 8:00-9:00 pm Arne Hanna Aquatic Center

NOTE: This is **NOT** a WAKE-sponsored event, it's an open time for all kayakers.

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! There will be extended newsletters on the wake website with more color pictures for your viewing pleasure.



The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

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Kathy Rounds.....	(360) 966-2276	rounds@az.com	New Member Liaison

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.)

WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts
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