



W.A.K.E.

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts



September 2005

Volume 24 Issue 6

Message from the Board Norm Nielsen

After taking a couple of months off, the WAKE Board is back to work. We are lining up program speakers for this fall and planning the annual meeting to be held December 2nd at the Squalicum Boathouse. We are also planning more indoor training sessions. Keep tuned.

The WAKE Board welcomes Janet Miller-

Tingley as club treasurer.

Janet brings fresh enthusi-

asm, good nature, and

financial responsibility to

the position. The Board

also welcomes Roger

Lamb and Lisa Higbee as

the newsletter mailing

coordinators – a largely

unseen but necessary

position to get out

WAKE's monthly mail-

ings. The Board also ex-

tends tremendous

gratitude to Dave Harris and Mary Matyas for

their considerable effort the past two years as

the club's mailing coordinators.

The annual Tri-Club Picnic will be at Bowman

Bay on September 24th from 10 am to 5 pm. Members of the Hole In The Wall (Skagit County), North Sound Sea Kayaking Association (Snohomish County), and WAKE kayak clubs will participate in this event offering:

- Salmon BBQ
- Pot-luck meals
- Soft beverages and water

**September 20th
club meeting
Downtown
Bellingham Library**
Doors open at 7:00, meeting starts
7:30

**Dawn Groves tells of her
Experience on a mother ship
Kayak tour in Alaska**

- All the table covers, plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc.
- Door prizes
- Contests with prizes
- Swap Meet (bring your stuff, 10% of the proceeds will go to the clubs)
- Entertainment (Greenland rolling demo)
- Paddling opportunities

Contact Dawn Groves (360-738-3617 or dawn@dawngroves.com) to sign up, or for additional information.

(Continued on page 2)

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"

(Continued from page 1) Message from the Board

Dawn Groves will also be the featured speaker at this month's general meeting, 7 pm September 20th at the downtown Bellingham library. The title of her presentation is "Mothership Kayaking With The *Home Shore*." Many of you will remember Coastal Wilderness Adventures' offer last spring to give away a weeklong trip on the Home Shore mothership to a WAKE member in return for the winner being willing to present her/his adventure to the club. Well, Dawn was the give-away winner, and she will tell us about the Home Shore's tour from Sitka to Baranof Island, Chichagof Island, and other destinations in southeast Alaska. Not to be missed! See you there.

A Preview of Dawn's Presentation:

Eight days immersed in Alaskan glaciers, fjords, hot springs, tide rips and sea arches is a dream for any paddler no matter how primitive the camping conditions. But when you include a cozy mothership complete with elegant staterooms, a locally knowledgeable and experienced crew, fresh, gourmet cuisine, a customized itinerary, and warm showers, you have more than a dream -- you have paddler's nirvana. Everyone should experience this at least once in their lives. Dawn Groves did it last May and she returned with some beautiful slides of the trip.

Lummi Island Trip Report June 4, 2005
By John Groves

WAKE's second camping trip of the year was an overnigher to the Lummi Island DNR campsite on June 4. Led by Roger Lamb, the group was supposed to have eight participants but only three stalwarts -- Alan Fox, Troy Husband, and John Groves -- showed up for the put-in at Gooseberry Point, the terminus of the Lummi Island Ferry. Weather was partly cloudy, with 8-10 MPH winds from the south-west. Waves were about a foot with no whitecaps. Paddles hit the water at 10:45 AM, for the long pull against the flood tide and quartering headwind. The pod hugged the shoreline to avoid the full current, then ferried across to Lummi. Traffic was light, and the crossing was easy. The group cruised along the eastern shore of Lummi Island, where they found a glorious tree-lined coastline with many inviting coves and beaches, mostly private property. After a brief lunch break, the voyage continued with an impromptu race between Alan and two unknown kayakers who were also heading for the DNR camp. The first arrival could claim a spectacular site on the end of the bluff overlooking the Sound. Coming from far behind, Alan poured it on and eventually overtook the strangers. The rest of the WAKERS arrived at 2:35 PM. They discovered that Alan won the race but alas, the primo spot was already taken by somebody else. But there are no bad campsites at Lummi. They found another excellent spot on a bluff above the cove, accessible by steps cut into the cliff. The camp site proved quite large enough for four campers, overlooking a breathtakingly beautiful cove with steep, tree-covered sides and a small beach. Eventually all the sites were filled and by nightfall there were ten kayaks drawn up. This campground is part of the Department of Natural Resources and is maintained by WAKE. This is a measure taken by WAKE and other outdoors groups to avoid having the camps closed due to lack of funding. Roger and Alan have a special kinship to the camp because they recently volunteered to continue this proud WAKE tradition of service. Besides maintenance chores, their duties include attending classes on maintaining the site. They are also entitled to free Hepatitis B shots. After setting up camp, the group spent the afternoon relaxing and exploring their surroundings. Rocky headlands offered fabulous views of the Sound and neighboring islands. Narrow trails wound through trees and brush, along the cliffs to another secluded beach. High above was a scenic overlook, a scattering of flat, body-friendly boulders, warmed by the sun, with continuous entertainment provided by the Sound and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the Cascades. Taken as a whole, the Lummi Island DNR proved to be an enchanted place, savage and mysterious, a secret kayaker's paradise.

Supper was a potluck banquet, with each member of the group contributing some tempting camp delicacy. These included pasta, fruit salad, and corn bread made by Troy in an ingenious collapsible oven. This marvelous device also generated a fabulous desert of cinnamon rolls. After the feast, campfire stories waxed eloquent, the general subject being tales of competition, grueling challenges, and hard training. All but one of the group were experienced competitors in kayaks, canoes, on bikes, skis, feet, and their experiences made for fascinating stories in the dying embers and darkening shadows. The night sky clouded over and a storm was predicted, but never showed. The wind picked up but there was no rain. The rest of the evening was filled to overflowing with peace and quiet.

Morning proved to be overcast and cool. The WAKERS enjoyed a leisurely breakfast, then broke camp and were on the water by 10 AM. The wind continued from the south-east, about 8 MPH. The Sound was again in full flood, but this time the kayakers were riding the current with the wind at their backs. The return took one and one half hours, as compared to almost twice that on the way out. The group arrived at Gooseberry Point at 11:30 AM. The wind picked up and rain began to fall as they loaded the boats. Their timing was observed to be about 98% perfect. The group generally agreed that the trip had been outstanding in every respect: good weather, kind seas, great food, stalwart company and a gloriously beautiful setting. Mission accomplished.

The Alaskan Experience By Robert Kandiko

A kayak trip starts with a thought, maybe from a map full of possibilities.

The inspiration ferments for a few years gathering fullness like wine.

*Tickets are bought and a friend takes the craft and gear north on his fishing boat
6 weeks prior to our departure.*

A forest service ranger stores the stuff and offers a suggestions for campsites along our route.

The 10 day forecast shows no sun so an extra tarp is added.

A pre dawn flight to a small town, July 4th including egg tosses and 5 person bed races.

A midnight ferry with a 3 a.m. dropoff at a dock with no services....and rain.

Three hours of sleep under an open shelter before a high tide launch: The paddling starts.

Rain, wind, remoteness: The Alaskan Experience.

Rolling seas, mists, dense fog, midnight bioluminescence and silence.

Morning alarm sounds of loons, eagles and ravens.

A wolf. 2 bear, breaching humpbacks and hundreds of frolicking otters.

Dinners of halibut, cod, salmon and crab.

A 3 sided shelter that seems like the Hilton.

Clean clothes and washed hair on a rare sunny day.

A grueling 2 mile portage requiring 3 roundtrips.

A blue bird last day, sunburnt back, a dry boat,

and an 8 hour hitch hike ride back with a true Alaskan couple on the crab boat with 2 cats.

And our first of many hot showers and sheets on a bed.

And another map.....more thoughts.... for another trip.

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

A word to the wise: a cautionary tale

By Bea Acland

Hello fellow paddlers,

I figure someone should be able to learn from my mistakes, so at the risk of being branded unstable, here is my story.

The other evening I set out to paddle down the lower Nooksack and out to the Bay with a couple of friends. We launched from the Marine Drive bridge over the river, looking forward to a nice quiet paddle through the undeveloped riverside and out to the calm windless bay, where we'd parked our second car at Little Squalicum Beach. This is a paddle I've done before, and it seemed like it'd make a nice peaceful start to the season.

A mile or so down the river, there was a lot of beaver activity, which fascinated us and took some of our attention away from what lay ahead. Suddenly we realized that the entire river was blocked all the way across by a log jam that stretch 50 feet downstream. By the time we realized this, we were already trapped broadside up against the logs, as the weight and pressure of all that water pressed down on us in its efforts to flow through the blockage.

There was no noise, and not being schooled in river dynamics, we did not at first realize the magnitude of the danger we were now in. All our efforts to pull the bows of our boats away from the log jam and redirect them upstream were completely thwarted. Every time I struggled to get my bow a foot or so away from the logs, the water sucked the boat right back in line with the logjam. After using up quite a bit of my strength in this fruitless effort, I panicked, got out of my boat and onto the logs, used the bow line to turn around the boat, and from there was finally able to pry myself loose and bull my way upstream. My companions were at a shallower part of the logjam, and were also finally able to paddle free, but without the ridiculous step of exiting their boat, as I had. Twenty yards up the river, we were able to rest in midstream, the boats not moving downstream even an inch. So I'd say the lower part of the Nooksack is not somewhere to travel just at the moment. I'll be working on my rescue and safety skills at Lake Padden for the time being.

Here's to safer trips than this.... *see Jim Bowman's comments on Bea's on the next page*



Bea -- thank you for sharing this story; it was well worth the post. I haven't seen this particular jam but your story would make the hair stand up on the neck of any white water kayaker -- as it did on mine. You have described a very lucky outcome to what often results in tragedy even among seasoned river kayakers. You experienced the trapping force of the hydrodynamics in the jam and got a clear sense that you may have been in danger. You were and are especially lucky you weren't tipped into the water. For three in your party to dodge the same bullet is EXTREMELY fortunate. I am adding my comments to affirm Bea's sense of danger in this situation and that this should not be taken as we-can-just-jump-out-of-our-boats-and-be-OK occurrence. The lesson here is that river wood in the form of jams, logs or even heavy brush is to be avoided at all costs. The river types already know this but sometimes touring types that are normally on the salt water may not have this exposure and lack the same sense of caution. The Skagit is another place to be careful, especially at the lower delta where conditions can change over the winter months. Lazy flowing rivers can give a false sense of security so always be mindful of what lies ahead. Be quick to jump out and scout the river when in doubt. Just my \$0.02. John Bowman

Please Join Wake's email Listserve

Why a listserv?

Simply, we needed to find a way for WAKE members to communicate quickly, informally, and easily to facilitate the activities of the club and its members. Currently we have our monthly newsletter and the website, but each of these have a certain lag time and neither is informal since they go out to all members and the public alike. The advantage of a listserv is that it's basically instantaneous and the messages are sent only to people who have a direct interest in the subject. It's a great way to announce a trip, find paddling partners, ask kayak questions, and more.

How do I join?

Joining the listserv is a three-step process - Send a blank email to kayak-subscribe@wakekayak.org. You will receive an email (from the listserv program) confirming your subscription request, and asking you to reply to the email to verify the request. Reply to the email. Once you've done this you will get a Welcome email, saying you've been successfully subscribed, and listing a series of commands for use with the listserv. (Be sure to save this email, it contains some useful information.) That's it!

Washington Water Trails Association

You can work for the environment every day from your desk or business by pledging to WWTA via workplace giving this fall. Give through your United Way, Combined Federal or State Campaign, or via an EarthShare pledge form. Fall is the time to renew past pledges, increase your tax deductible payroll deduction, or make a one time gift to Washington Water Trails Association.

WAKE is looking for a few good people

- To **initiate trips** (contact Margen Riley at (360) 647-1160 (margenb@earthlink.net) or Dawn Groves at (360) 738-3617 (dawn@dawngroves.com))
- To **present on-land and on-water training courses** (contact Dave Peebles at (360) 734-1842 (selbeepoo@aol.com)) Also if you have any ideas of what kind of courses you would like to take please contact John with your ideas.

Secondwind Sports

Chris Mitchell has been a great contributor to WAKE providing excellent instruction

Check schedules or contact Chris at
www.secondwindsports.net



Natural West Coast Adventures
Kayak Tours, Rentals & Instruction
"Peace of Mind on the Water"



Multi-day Kayak Tours, Sunset paddles, lessons & Rentals
We are **White Rocks Sea Kayak Specialists**
Intro to Sea Kayak Course \$ 110 + taxes. Canadian
Sunset kayaking \$45.00 + taxes
White Rock (604) 535-7985
www.kayak.bc.ca or www.bckayaks.com

Membership Benefits

•Island Outfitters (Anacortes)

10% off everything in the store
except boats and sale items.
(360)299-2300

•Johnson Outdoors (Ferndale)

10% off everything in the store
(360) 366-4013

•Rack Attack (Mt. Vernon)

10% off all racks and systems
(360) 428-2665

•Wavelength Magazine

\$5.00 off an annual subscription
(800) 799-5602

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

Johnson Outdoors



A complete line of kayaks, paddles, accessories,
clothing, safety gear, and more, featuring the
largest selection in Whatcom County.

(360) 366-4013
2460 Salashan Loop, Ferndale, WA 98248



Check out Reg Lake's Patented BrewMug System
See demo and details at www.brewmug.com

Available locally at Johnson Outdoors,
Island Outfitters, Boat Body and Blade



In the Sehome Village Shopping Center
400 36th Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225
(360)647-8955

YEAGERS

SPORTING GOODS

A Full-Service Kayak Shop
featuring

- Perception Kayaks
- Werner Paddles ● Extrasport
- NRS ● Bending Branches
and much more.

3101 Northwest Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-1080

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 send me the Newsletter by email

Calendar of Events

All WAKE voyages require a Trip Release form at the launch (which can be downloaded from the WAKE website) and we ask you to be a current WAKE member to join us.

Every Saturday Short paddles in the Bellingham area. Beginners always welcome. Destinations are determined by the skill level and interests of whoever shows up, and of course, by the weather. **This is not a WAKE sponsored event** - Meet at Sehome Village Starbucks @ 9:00AM.

First Saturday Paddle: This is a WAKE sponsored event. Introductory paddle for those wishing to learn basics about sea kayaking. This is a great way to learn basic to early intermediate skills on Lake Whatcom. Contact John Janney (360) 933-1584. Please bring filled-out membership form and waiver to be found on the WAKE website.

Wednesday evenings, start time 5-6pm. Paddle from Bloedel Donovan Park Lake Whatcom. Join the local Paddling community for an informal race around the north end of Lake Whatcom.

Sat-Sun Sept 17th-18th: W K C /Surfriders Coastal Cleanup & Barbecue. Washington Kayak Club joins Surfriders Foundation on the Olympic Peninsula for a trash collection paddle/event between Crescent and Freshwater Bays . Meet Saturday afternoon at Clallam County Salt Creek Recreation Area for salmon barbecue sponsored by W K C . First-come, coastal paddle cleanup portion begin Sat. 11 a.m. through Sunday. Optional touring or surfing on Saturday. Contact Andree Hurley kayak@onwatersports.com 206-669-1622.

October 1 & 2: Lummi Island kayak camping and pot luck. WAKE Skill level III required. Contact Roger Lamb at 738-4652 or rlamb@pacbell.net

October 3 - 12, 2005: Island Outfitters is sponsoring a Wilderness First Responder course with the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School.

COST: \$799.00/USD Tuition, Lodging, and Group Kitchen Facility

LOCATION: Deception Pass State Park, Washington (Cornet Bay ELC)

Essential for anyone who spends significant time in remote places or who has a professional career in the outdoors, the Wilderness First Responder (WFR) course will prepare you to make difficult medical decisions. This course is fast-paced and engaging. You'll spend half your time outside of the classroom doing hands-on skills and realistic scenarios. In addition to scenarios, you'll participate in a full-scale night mock rescue. WMI's curriculum encompasses a wide range of topics including long-term patient care, wound management, straightening angulated fractures, reducing dislocations, litter packaging and administering medications. You'll complete this course with the tools and confidence to manage patients in the backcountry for multiple days. The intensive 80-hour curriculum is nationally recognized and supported by the Wilderness Medicine Institute's Medical Advisory Panel. You'll be taught by dynamic educators who have practiced both wilderness and urban medicine. This 10-day course is ideal for all professionals operating in remote environments. Adult CPR certification is included. The WFR course is pre-approved for 70 hours of EMT CEU's by CECBEMS.

The W.A.K.E. Hierarchy

Norm Nielsen (360) 647-2531
Dave Peebles (360) 734-1842

Dave Johnston (360) 754-5379

Alison Graham (360) 676-0615
Janet Miller Tingley (360) 393-2207
Ted Ullman (360) 220-0044
Holly Hinman (360) 305-7467
Lisa Wallis (360) 756-7553
Dawn Groves (360) 738-3617
Margen Riley (360) 647-1160

nordicnorm@comcast.net
selbeptoo@aol.com
Training Coordinator, & Speaker Scheduler
sameplace1@comcast.net
new member liason
alisongraham@earthlink.net
wolfwomanphoto@earthlink.net
tedullman@hotmail.com
hhinman@comcast.net
trekkin@fildalgo.net
dawn@dawngroves.com
margenb@earthlink.net

President
Vice President &
Training Coordinator & Speaker Scheduler
Vice President &
Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
DNR Liaison
Trip Coordinators

WAKE

Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 1952
Bellingham, WA 98227



WWW.WAKEKAYAK.ORG

Trip report from Clark Island

By Roger Lamb Photos Ed Alm

Had a nice paddle to and from Clark Island last month. Saturday the four of us paddled west into the weather and two foot seas for an hour to get across Rosario Strait; no place for beginners. Camped in fine weather on a pebble beach, sharing this DNR with only two other kayakers, who chose to set up at the opposite end of the beach. On our return Sunday morning we had to paddle lively on our crossing, avoiding a tanker bearing down on us. Good





