



wake

whatcom association of kayak enthusiasts ▲ www.wakekayak.org ▲ October 2007 ▲ Vol. 26 Issue 8

President's Message

by Dawn Groves



This month's WAKE meeting program reminds me of my father.

When I was growing up, my dad made a functional popcorn popper out of an old pot and a coat hanger. He was always inventing weird, interesting gadgets. I was the only girl on the block with a homemade oval racetrack in the garage where Dad raced rats to test his theories about training thoroughbreds.

Kayakers are a similarly creative bunch who do comparable kinds of magic. Some paddlers are skilled inventors while others have simply figured out clever, economical ways to manage particular aspects of the sport. They're the folks who stay warm no matter what. They can always reach the right item because they know how to pack smart. They're cozy in their cockpits. They eat tasty, interesting foods when others are stuck with peanut butter. At the end of the day, they store their boats in their garage and still have room for cars and trash cans.

On October 16th at the WAKE meeting, folks like Rosemary Pastiche, John Janney, Pat Peacock, Dan Moos, Dave Peebles, Reg Lake, and plenty of others will share kayaking tips and tricks, special ideas and suggestions, inventions and gear discoveries, and anything else that makes boating a little more convenient and comfortable. Topics are roughly organized into categories such as Boat Storage, Packing, Food and Recipes, Transportation, and Misc. If you have a great kayaking suggestion or a hair-brained idea that really works, email me (dawn@wakekayak.org). I'll include you in the docket. Hopefully we'll all take home a yard sale of new ideas.

Of course, I'll bet none of you can use a five foot wooden lever to squeeze the life out of a batch of cooked guavas. Talk about useful ... (Thanks, Dad!)

WAKE presents ...

Tips and Tricks

from WAKE

October 16th

Paddlers will share their clever solutions and ideas around camping, outfitting, storage, and all areas of interest to kayakers. Come and mine the information database that is our membership.

Bellingham Library ♦ Doors open at 7p.m. ♦ Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

2008 WAKE Board Elections

by Donna VanderGriend

Yes, it's that time again—time for the 2008 election of officers, which will take place at the annual meeting on December 7. If you are interested in a board position or would like to be added to the slate of candidates, please contact a board member.

Most of the current board members have graciously agreed to continue in their positions, but if anyone would like to replace them, they would probably welcome the respite.

The current president, Dawn Groves, is resigning to pursue professional and educational goals. Donna VanderGriend, the new member liaison, is considering the role of president, but would not be offended if someone else would like to serve.

We need a new training coordinator and hope to fill three new positions created to delegate some of our ever-increasing responsibilities. We are a team with varied abilities and experience. Our goal is to serve the membership, guided by its current needs and interests, by delegating and sharing responsibility with member volunteers.

We encourage you to consider serving on the board. If that's not an option, we look forward to having you as a volunteer for a 2008 project or event. The culture of the club in 2008 is directly related to its leadership, volunteers, and the participation of its members. Following is a list of open positions:

Newsletter Editor

Second only to the website, the newsletter is the most visible component of the club. In this exciting, rewarding position, you'll get to write, edit, and design nine issues per year (July, August, and December are newsletter-free months). You'll have tons of fun—and the creative possibilities are endless! Works closely with the board, membership, webmaster, and new communications coordinator.

Training Coordinator **NEW!**

Responsibilities: Handles the development and scheduling of training for WAKE membership. This includes determining membership needs and interests, contacting, scheduling, and supporting trainers, booking and setting up venues as necessary, showing up at the opening of the event to make sure everything is running according to plan, and handling participant lists and fees. Must be comfortable with long range planning and follow-up. Works closely with the president, newsletter editor, webmaster, registrar, and communications coordinator.

Rewards: This is a perfect position for someone who wants to get to know top-notch paddlers and paddling instructors. It's a great way to become connected to the elite paddling community of the Pacific Northwest. Participants and trainers are deeply appreciative of your efforts. It's a great way to be of service and to be first in line for some excellent training.

continued on p. 2

Registrar NEW!

Responsibilities: Assists the training coordinator with course registration. Maintains course lists, wait lists and accounts receivable. Works closely with the treasurer/secretary.

Rewards: Involvement in club training and membership on the board.

Communications Coordinator NEW!

Responsibilities: Manages communication and publicity for WAKE. This includes developing and distributing flyers and other advertising media, notifying local publications of WAKE events and writing occasional email blurbs for the membership listserv. Must be comfortable writing and producing publicity materials and talking about WAKE events. Works closely with the newsletter editor, training and speaker coordinators, and webmaster.

Rewards: This is an excellent position for an outgoing individual who enjoys keeping his or her fingers on the pulse of WAKE events. As the WAKE spokesperson, it's a great way to become immediately active and important in the paddling community. It's also a lot of fun.

Support our advertisers:

Backcountry Essentials
360/543-5625

Body Boat Blade
www.bodyboatblade.com

Brew Mug System
www.brewmug.com

Elakah
www.elakah.com

Island Outfitters
www.seakayakshop.com

Johnson Outdoors
360/366-4013

Moondance Sea Kayak Adventures
www.moondancekayak.com

REI
www.rei.com

Secondwind Sports
www.secondwindsports.net

Sterling's Kayaks and Fiberglass
www.sterlingskayak.com

University of Sea Kayaking
www.useakayak.org

Werner Paddles
www.wernerpaddles.com

Yeagers
360/733-1080

Demo Day Manager

Responsibilities: Manage WAKE's Demo Day with the help of WAKE volunteers. Demo Day involves scheduling vendors for beach demos, organizing the used boat sales and the gear swap, scheduling and announcing on-water "edutainment," organizing food for volunteers and vendors, and being the information focus for the event. The Demo Day manager leads a small group of volunteers in charge of specific aspects of the event such as the beach, the gear swap, the used boat area, finances, safety, and publicity. Additional volunteers handle duties for the day of the event.

Demo Day is WAKE's biggest annual community event, typically scheduled the first or second weekend of May. The Demo Day manager must enjoy event management with all of its ups and downs, aligning with coordinators and groups, handling a variety of tasks and troubleshooting as necessary. This person needs to be flexible and upbeat, engendering support and enthusiasm from the membership, and working closely with all members of the board. He or she will need to attend at least two board meetings prior to the event, and be willing to devote a fair amount of time to the planning and execution of the project during April and early May.

Rewards: Demo Day is a real showcase for WAKE. The person in charge of this event garners excellent karma and great respect from the entire membership. There's no better way to get to know movers and shakers in the sea paddling community than to manage Demo Day. Strong relationships and wonderful memories are built from this experience. The board and the key volunteers for the event are extremely supportive of the Demo Day manager; there is no management in a bubble. It is definitely a group experience with appropriately delegated responsibilities. When it's all said and done, Demo Day management is a job well worth doing and a marvelous way to contribute to the paddling community.

Best Part of A Chuckanut Day

by Jim Bowman

Heading back to the launch site after another glorious day paddling Chuckanut, I catch the sun just as it gets ready to dip for the day, and I carve one of those cool Derrick Hutchinson turns toward Lummi, 100 yards off shore. I am now drifting to a stop facing into the golden dripping light on this hot summer evening. Lazy waves slap the Chuckanut sandstone in the background. The water has that oily smooth quality, there's the slightest breeze, my paddle is flat in my lap, Bonaparte's Gulls are gliding past looking for a last morsel, the almost-set sun wraps me in its warmth, and an almost imperceptible mist of salt and seaweed essence drifts under my nose.

It's one of those contemplative times when life's hustle evaporates for a rare, brief moment as the sun makes its final move—perhaps a moment better understood by generations of native peoples through the millennia that have plied these waters in simple water craft. The low, glowing sun that artists everywhere treasure bakes creases of sweat into my eyes and puts an all-is-well-ending on this day. The last rays of light roll off me and my softly undulating kayak—like a glowing, silken sheet being gathered up and sucked over the horizon into a very bright and at once disappearing period.

It is dusk, leaving me to a relaxed paddle back to shore. I am gifted with a deeper attachment to this environment that is uniquely Chuckanut, with a sense of satisfaction that can't be adequately described in words—and doesn't need to be.

Upcoming Events ...

- ◆ Kayaker of the Month for November—Chris Mitchell
- ◆ Nov. 20 meeting—Speakers Greg Dutton and Dan Henderson
- ◆ Dec. 7—Winter Party/Meeting
- ◆ Jan. 15 meeting—Speaker Nigel Foster

2007 WAKE Board Members

Dawn Groves	President	dawn@wakekayak.org
Roger Lamb	Vice President, Trip Coordinator	roger@wakekayak.org
Ed Alm	Membership	ed@wakekayak.org
Donna VanderGriend	New Member Liaison	donna@wakekayak.org
Tara McDonald	Treasurer	tara@wakekayak.org
Lisa Wallis	Lummi DNR Campsite Liaison	lisa@wakekayak.org
Dan Barrett	Webmaster	dan@wakekayak.org
Kathy McGee	Newsletter Editor	kathy@wakekayak.org