



February 2020 Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)

February WAKE Member Presentation Tuesday, February 18

WAKE Member Presentation, Sheila's kayaking, wildlife, and entertaining travel adventures. And associated Geology.

Sheila Kluck will present photos (and geology) from her kayaking and other water sports and outdoor and travel adventures, wildlife viewing and encounters, with some fun and humor along the way. These include WAKE trips, seals and jellyfish, but also Alaska sea otters, alligators that love marshmallows, hippos, manatee, an elephant shares the water with us in our little Makoro dugout canoe, the unpredictable elephant pretending it can hide behind a tree, and sleepy polar bears awaiting the native's bowhead whale hunt. And of course, dogs in kayaks. Her travels, although not her kayaking, include 5 continents. Geology will pop up in the presentation like whack-a-mole.

Please join us.

March 17th presentation:

Ward Naviaux, an emergency room physician and outdoor athlete. Speaking on hypothermia.

WAKE paddlers enjoying great winter paddling on Whatcom creek. Practicing slalom and creek boating in strong flow rates regularly this season. Great fun and skills practice!



2020 Skagit River Eagle Float

The week preceding the annual Eagle Float was one of great indecision for me. A wise person would of cancelled by just looking at predicted weather forecast for Sunday, Jan 5th. All week long, the forecast hovered between dank and downright despicable. But I had a boatload of members interested in going on the paddle. What's a trip leader to do?

So I decided we should tough it out and never cancelled. The forecast never changed and my merry band of paddlers dwindled down to six. The brave (foolish?) ones were Ed and Bonnie Alm, Amy Hammer, Sheila Kluck, Teresa Flodin, John Halsey, and I.

We launched at the Marblemount boat launch about 10:30. Air temp 37 degrees, water temp 44 degrees, slight drizzle. Who could ask for better winter paddling conditions? The eagles were few but nobody seemed to care. Everyone was just enjoying floating down the river. We stopped for a lunch break on a gravel bar just downriver from Cascadian Farms. The wind started to blow and everyone was

anxious to move on before they became too chilled. Then the rain arrived with the wind blowing it into our faces. Now I'm sitting in my boat wishing I was one of the wise ones that cancelled and stayed home.

About 2 miles above Rockport, there's an area known as the Eagle Sanctuary, a slough with beaver ponds tucked between the river and the highway. Here is where we saw the eagles. There was about a dozen sitting in trees along the river. We decided to paddle into the sanctuary and were greeted by more eagles. Now the magic happened. The wind and rain stopped and the sun actually popped out. A truly pleasant surprise. Smiles appeared from nowhere. Then disaster struck. Just before reaching the take out, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, a boat flipped and the paddler went for a chilly swim. Both were rescued but not together. The paddler decided the short walk to the take out was easier than being reunited with the boat. Except for the grand finale, it wasn't too bad of the day on the water.
Tom Borst





WAKE HOLIDAY PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION

December 6, 2019

Around 40 people gathered at the Squaticum Yacht Club in Bellingham for our annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction. Tables of donated kayaking equipment, gift certificates and other items were available to bid on. The Silent Auction brought in \$684 to the club. Many thanks to all of the businesses and individuals who donated items.

The potluck meal was a tasty fare. Dave & Mary Peebles made a delicious turkey and Bonnie & Ed Alm prepared a yummy ham. Lots of good side dishes and desserts accompanied the main courses. Brian Lange gave a short speech as the outgoing WAKE President and presented embroidered WAKE Trip Leader hats to a few people in the crowd. Mark your calendars now for this year's WAKE Holiday Party and Silent Auction to be held on December 4, 2020.

2020 WAKE BOARD OFFICERS

Sheila Kluck, President

Brian Lange, Co-Vice President

Dave Riffle, Co-Vice President

Carla Knight, Secretary

Susan Benepe, Treasurer and Membership Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's now time to renew your annual membership with WAKE. The cost is \$25 for individuals and \$40 for couples. Membership benefits include monthly educational meetings, being on a "short-notice" trips email list, invitation to longer trips, monthly e-newsletters, the annual WAKE Symposium, and a lending library of books and DVD's of kayaking skills, equipment, trip planning, and wildlife and nature. Visit www.wakekayak.org to download a membership application and liability release form. Both of these forms need to be signed and mailed to WAKE, P.O. Box 1952, Bellingham, WA 98227-1952. Feel free to contact Susan Benepe, WAKE Membership Coordinator at sbenepe@gmail.com or (307) 349-0450 with any questions.

SKAGIT RIVER CLEANUP

In spite of the flashing red "winter storm warning" alerts (a.k.a. it's just raining as usual), WAKE members Barb Francis, Tom Borst, Debra Noonan and Amy Hammer and RE Sources scientists Eleanor Hines and Kirsten McDade paddled the 6.5 miles from Birdsvie to Hamilton doing a cleanup on the Skagit River on Tuesday, Jan 21.

We got several pounds of recycling and 280 pounds of garbage out of the river, including 3 sleeping bags, a box of used fireworks, fishing gear, plumbing parts, lots of foam and plastics, the obligatory tire, etc.

The riding lawnmower leaking oil, the chainlink fence and the full-size lazy boy couch we found were too much for our 3 canoes, so we GPS tagged and reported them to the Department of Ecology Environmental Report Tracks System (ERTS) for followup.

Doing river cleanups is a fun way to get very intimate and personal with the river, digging a mattress out of the sand or detangling tarp shards out of branch wads. It's also a great way to PRACTICE TRICKY PADDLE MOVES YOU JUST INVENTED and NEW BALANCING MANEUVERS as you go for it to get that walmart bag off that high bank from your boat in a current.

We were interviewed and written up in the Concrete Herald. The article also has info about the repeal of much of the Clean Water Act, parts of which have been in place since 1972.

We were happy and had lots of fun.

Amy

(P.S. I like to think some stuff like a riding lawnmower and a couch falls into the river during flood or large bank erosion events instead of being thrown in the river like a dump, but who knows.)

Photo: Eleanor Hines, Tom Borst, Amy Hammer, Barb Francis, Debra Noonan and Kirsten McDade



IS YOUR KAYAK IN NEED OF A SPRING TUNE-UP?

Call Sterling Kayaks for excellent, local service. They are big supporters of WAKE and annually donate gift certificates and/or money off the purchase price of a new kayak for our Holiday Silent Auction.

Fast turnaround, affordable and high quality workmanship.

Phone: 360-398-2410, Address: 5421 Guide Meridian Unit D, Bellingham

The WAKE Library

If you would like to order books or DVD'S from the library, email Carla at luvz2kayak@gmail.com or text or call her at 256-614-4741 prior to the monthly WAKE meeting.

Got Photos?

We are in need of new images for our website, newsletters and announcements. Please submit your photos to Tom@wakekayak.org and/or cheryl@wakekayak.org

From the Editor

I want to thank everybody who has contributed to the WAKE newsletter. It is much appreciated to keep the communication up and going for our members.

The deadline to submit your articles and photos is the 6th of every month, which you can email them to me any time. If you submit an article after the 6th, it will be included in the following month's issue.

In the future, I won't be sending out a short notice for newsletter article requests. Please, remember to support your newsletter, so all our members will be caught up with our paddling adventures.

Email me if you have any questions.

Thank you
Cheryl Olson
Newsletter Editor
cheryl@wakekayak.org