

Ramblings from Randy

By Randy Brook

With lots to talk about, I've resurrected my old "Ramblings from Randy" format. Let's start with Washington Water Trails (WWTa) news.

At the last meeting, we talked about the club's treasury and WWTa's difficult times and important needs. (Our last newsletter gave a lot of info about this being an issue for the meeting.) We didn't need to break the club's record of never having motions or votes, except straw polls. By pretty much unanimous consent among the large attendance of members, we decided on how to help WWTa.

SSKC will give \$1,750 for capital needs. Our understanding is that this donation will be leveraged by challenge or matching grants, so its benefit will be doubled. The first \$500 will pay for new signs on the Cascadia Marine trails website. Those signs will acknowledge SSKC's contribution. The rest will go for much needed replacement of aging computers and related technology. WWTa needs this to manage its membership and the volunteer operation that does the work of trail maintenance. A final, non-monetary contribution will come from our 17 members who volunteered that night to help with site work.

Our members also approved other proposals, including the club subsidizing one or more paddle stroke clinics, a survival class, a wilderness first aid class, and more pool sessions. Planning is already underway. There will be other reports about this here, or in future newsletters as plans progress. I expect next year will be one of the best ever for SSKC!

On the information front, as Speaker I get a lot of unsolicited email. (Bret as "Info" person does, too.) Some comes in the category of "please plan my kayak trip for me." Here's a realistic though not exact example: "I'll be in Seattle for a meeting in July. I'll have some time to go kayaking. Could you please advise me on where I should go, what I may see there, and where can I get equipment?" I'm not kidding. Sometimes they even come in the week before the person is arriving in Seattle, so they want a quick response. My way of dealing with this is to send a boilerplate reply I developed years ago. I courteously suggest they consult several named books and the outfitters listed as links on our website.

Occasionally, the information emails are a bit more interesting. I recently received a notice of a new website with worldwide info on sea kayaking. <http://kayarchy.co.uk/> I was quite impressed with the coverage. I also liked the practical approach that is unusual from a UK-based sea kayaker. Those people usually take a military approach to gear, training, etc. Check it out.

Another bit of useful info was about the new permit requirement for launching from San Juan County Park. See my article about it in the June newsletter.

Enjoy the pizza picnic, and Happy Paddling.