President’s Note

Since I returned to WWTA in the summer I have heard from many members, donors and stakeholders how important our mission is:

Through advocacy, education, and stewardship, Washington Water Trails Association protects and promotes public access to Washington waterways, shorelines, and marine trails for human-powered watercraft.

With our efforts, we want to inspire current and future generations to enjoy and take a greater role in protecting our waterways, and ensuring public access.

Through bringing back events, it is clear that our members appreciate meeting each other and continuing their education in areas that benefit them when utilizing the trails and trail sites.

Each event asked for a suggested donation of $30.00 and we were pleased to have most classes fill-up and bring in a few hundred dollars towards operating expenses.

Here is a list of past events to date:

• Luau, courtesy of The Kayak Academy and Tomas Tabisola

• Paddling in the Wind - George Gronseth
• Islands of Formosa - Nigel Foster
• Tides and Currents - Andrée Hurley

Thanks to Melinda Moree, The Mountaineers and Justine Curgenven of Cackle TV Productions, for presenting “Kayaking the World with Justine Curgenven” which brought in a donation of $1000.00.

We also joined the #GivingTuesday movement, and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous matched all incoming donations in the first two weeks of December.

We are sad to have lost Elen Ward, who was with us for many years, moved on to other opportunities.

Thankfully our board and many volunteers are working to fill her shoes (see the final page).

That said, WWTA saw many changes in 2017. Don Crook and Michael Silence again spent much of their summer either kayaking or driving to many of our sites checking on the signage and the campsite conditions. In the process they connected with many of the land managers to keep our relationships in good standing.

Andrée Hurley
President
Acting Executive Director
WORK PARTIES
Harry Oesterreicher

WWTA continues our partnership with the Washington State Parks Department to help maintain shoreline campsites on the Cascadia Marine Trail. Volunteers can join our work parties this spring:
- Blake Island State Park on April 21 (the day before Earth Day!) and at
- Blind Island State Park on May 12.

We will be clearing trails, footpaths and tent beds, removing invasive plants, and generally cleaning up the sites. You can paddle over or catch a boat ride with the Park Ranger.

Harry has volunteered to be our work party coordinator and you can contact him via mail@harryo.com for more details or to sign up.

He is the proprietor of a Seattle-based company that repairs computers and provides technical support. He is also a PSUPA certified Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor who will be encouraging more SUP enthusiasts to volunteer with WWTA.

More Volunteerism

Don Crook has also been busy representing WWTA with:

Trails & Public Access Committee

Actions:

Public Access:
- Participating as member of Washington State Park's Boating Advisory Council.
- Participating as member of Washington State Parks Paddling Advisory Committee.
- Participating in Washington Boating Alliance (NW Marine Trade Association Hosted).
- Working with Washington State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, and the County Agencies of Mason, King, Whatcom, San Juan Islands, Snohomish, and Spokane on development of future public water access sites.
- Presented WWTA & CMT “Public Education” topics at events such as “NW PaddleFest”, “Big Paddle”, “Washington State Trails Coalition Conference”, Olympia’s “Big Tent”, and paddle clubs.
- Visited 5 potential new CMT sites to meet with local land managers on planning “Next Steps”.

Other:
- Participated in planning and development meetings of the Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers Recreation Coalition's Sky To Sound Water Trail.
- Participated in the “Big Paddle” Inauguration of the Lewis River to Vancouver Lake Water Trail.
- Advocating WWTA’s mission in the development of the Skykomish and Snohomish Recreation Plan.
- Planning monthly classes and/or activities of interest to our membership.
- Ongoing updating of mapping water trail access points, rest areas and CMT sites.
- Improving and updating our website.
- Performing administrative tasks to keep the organization records updated.

We are always looking for ways to increase our exposure, membership and volunteers. Recently Adam Brandt and Andrée Hurley attended the Tableau volunteer fair to make contact with potential volunteers and members.
**Plans for 2018**

- Activities planned for 2018 are a combination of “Trail Maintenance” and “Trail Development/Expansion” along with some “get acquainted” paddles and planned Work Parties on Blake, Blind, Shaw, and Pt. Doughty (and perhaps more depending on requests).

- Central to the summer activity plans are the annual “Visit All Cascadia Marine Trail Sites” paddles and planned Work Parties on Blake, Blind, Shaw, and Pt. Doughty. In addition to all this outdoor “fun” stuff we are also working on the development of new CMT sites at Maury Island and other Puget Sound State Park and DNR sites through County and State agencies meetings.

- Other Water Trail paddles on the table are Willapa Bay Trail, Lewis River Trail, Skykomish/Snoqualmie Sky to Sound Trail, Lower Spokane River Trail, Tapiwe River Trail, and part of the Greater Columbia River Trail along the Hanford Works.

- This year’s paddlers will be able to blog their experiences and pictures on the WWTA Web Site for all interested parties to follow.

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**2017 Financial Results**

**Revenue**

- Events: 24,618.18
- Contributions: 19,553.84
- Dues: 11,961.00
- Employer Match: 2,579.61

Total Revenue: 58,712.63

**Expense**

- Payroll: 50,183.35
- Rent: 7,325.00
- Events: 5,910.46
- Telephone/Internet: 2,708.13
- Insurance: 2,503.98
- Program/Outreach: 2,040.00
- Prof Fees: 1,980.00
- Merchant Fees/CC: 1,353.29
- Misc Admin: 1,206.04
- Membership: 429.36
- Technology: 389.31

Total Expense: 76,028.92

Net Loss: (17,316.29)

**ASSETS**

- Cash: 13,241.56
- Unexpired Insurance: 347.88
- Equipment & Furniture: 11,876.63
- Less Depreciation: (11,071.68)

Total Assets: 15,077.39

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

- Liabilities: None
- Net Assets: 15,077.39

Total Liabilities & Net Assets: 15,077.39

Current Bank Balance 02/21/18: $16,058.56

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**Board of Directors**

- President and Acting Executive Director: Andrée Hurley
- Vice President: Don Crook
- Treasurer: Phil Philbin
- Secretary: Adam Brandt
- Committee Chairs
  - Membership: Karen Scharer
  - Technology: Mike Acker
  - Trails: Don Crook (with Michael Silence)
- At large: Tomas Tabisola
- Other
  - Work Party Coordinator: Harry Oesterreicher
  - Office Volunteer: Colin Lindsay
  - Marketing: Rob Casey
  - Mapping: Lara Crooke
- Honorary Members: Tom Steinburn, Fran Troje

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**Washington Water Trails Association**

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Supporters

- Exped
- REI
- Kayak Academy
- Northwest Outdoor Center
- Werner Paddles
- SEA-Lect Designs

Clubs

- The Mountaineers Recreation Access Committee
- North Sound Sea Kayaking Association
- WA Kayak Club
- Whatcom Association of Kayak Enthusiasts

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We will see you on the water!