

Saskatoon and Area Geocaching Association
Executive Meeting
September 17th, 2012

Present:

Rina Fradette (President)
Dallas Fradette (Treasurer)
Karin Steuber (Webmaster)

Gen Prevost (Vice-President)
Ross Kidd (Public Relations)

Regrets: Diandra Thompson (Secretary)

Meeting began at 7:40pm.

Old Business:

Rina announced that we need to have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the membership prior to the end of October according to our bylaws. It was suggested to have it in conjunction with the SCAR wrap-up at Grainfields Restaurant. It would follow along the same lines as our monthly Meet & Greet events (i.e. dessert & coffee) but include the AGM before the wrap-up party. Items to be discussed at the meeting include: finances, the Christmas party, monthly Meet & Greet events including themed events (i.e. new cacher tips in the event logbook as well as an informal discussion, photo night, etc.), Geocaching 101 events on cacher etiquette, etc., and any other discussing from the floor. Since it takes at least two weeks for an event to be published on geocaching.com a date was set for October 22nd, 2012 at 7:00pm so as not to interfere with the annual Christmas party. Ross will look into reserving a small banquet room at the restaurant.

The SCAR wrap-up was decided to be held in conjunction with the AGM on October 22nd, 2012. Rina is changing the format of the online survey this year because the old version was very time-consuming. It was suggested to go by the "favorite" listing on each cache; however, since not a lot of people use that feature on the website it could skew the results. Instead, the new survey will include more open-ended questions such as the top 3 caches, favorite location, etc. Due to the large number of participants in this year's SCAR, it might become unmanageable in the future to host a wrap-up party. SAGA would continue to co-host a BBQ; however, there might be fewer prizes in the future. Since geocachers are still entered into a door prize draw for the amount of geocaches they placed for the event, they would still be rewarded this way. For the 2012 SCAR wrap-up party, prizes are still needed. It was decided that Rina would use money from the SAGA bank account to purchase them.

The terms for Rina, Dallas, Ross and Karin are ending; however, all are willing to remain on the Executive. Since there is room for 9 individuals on the Executive, we will accept volunteers at the Annual General Meeting in October.

Ross reported that he is still sending out welcome emails to new geocaching members via geocaching.com. These emails welcomes new members and inform them of the

existence of SAGA and the active geocaching community in Saskatoon and area as well as encourages them to contact fellow geocachers should they wish.

The CITO event held on September 10th, 2012 in Grosvenor Park was well attended. Since individuals are usually busy on weekends, it was suggested to make some future CITO events on weeknights so that more people can attend. The previous CITO included an introduction to geocaching to a few non-geocachers who happened by.

New Business:

Rina reported that there is an ammunition can shortage in the City of Saskatoon for use as geocache containers. Ross noted there would probably be less in the future due to Canadian Forces pulling out of Afghanistan. Rose's Auction tends to have ammo cans available for purchase at a reasonable price and on a regular basis. Rina suggested that we contact them and request several lots of ammunition cans for a reasonable price. SAGA could then sell them to local geocachers. It was agreed and a letter was drafted by Gen to give to local businesses that sell ammunition containers. Dallas asked if we could buy directly from CFB Dundurn for a reasonable price. Ross will make inquiries into Dundurn's supply.

Rina is interested in hosting a "Ladies Caching Night Out" event in October and wondered if SAGA would be interested in hosting it rather than herself. It was agreed that SAGA would be the host and if popular this type of event could become a regular occurrence.

Eric Parsons of Dragonfly E&N created a phone list for local geocachers through the Facebook page. It was noted that many people on the list are not SAGA members. It was decided to post information on the Facebook page about SAGA and the upcoming AGM/SCAR wrap-up event as well as sending out an email to non-members. Rina will look into sending out the email.

The annual Christmas party is tentatively set for November 17th, 2012 in the basement at Faith River Church. Rina will make sure that the date is available and look into when the event will begin. It was agreed that the format of the event is good; however, more time will be needed for the gift exchange especially with all the new geocachers in the area this year. It was suggested that a time limit be set for people deciding on which gift to choose on the table and that all gifts remain on the table for the duration of the game.

Due to the popularity of the Winter Cache Game it was suggested that SAGA take over in the organization of it if Ed Lomas is no longer interested in organizing it. It would be very little effort and amount to copying the information from last year's cache page. We could increase participation in it through more advertising. Rina has a reporter contact at the Metro who could do a brief article on it as was done for the SCAR event. Kickoff for the game was suggested for December 1st, 2012. Rina will email Ed to see if he would like to continue on or not.

Dallas reported that the 50/50 event at the SCAR BBQ was extremely well received and SAGA made \$205 off of it. He suggested that we have it at the annual Christmas party as well, which all present agreed upon. This is an easy and good way for SAGA to raise money. It was decided to have 50/50 draws at the two major events hosted by SAGA: the Christmas party and SCAR.

Dallas gave an overview of SAGA's financial standing. At the beginning of the fiscal year (August 2011), the balance of the bank account was \$563.50. Over the year, SAGA took in \$528.55 in revenue (the SCAR event garnered \$453.55 in revenue) and spent \$474.41 (mostly on the SCAR event). Profit for the fiscal year was \$54.14, which leaves SAGA with a balance of \$617.64.

Due to SAGA's financial status should we look into creating/re-minting a geocoin? It was decided that we will eventually do this but not in the near future unless there is a large demand and we do a pre-sale on the geocoin.

Ross informed the Executive that fellow geocacher, GaryMD53 of Abilene, Texas, would like to donate 25 Travelbugs to SAGA to be put out into a race. GaryMD53 would take care of the specifics for the race. It is important for us to get this information out to everyone so that as many people have a chance to participate as possible. Ross will converse with GaryMD53 to confirm that he is still interested in doing this. It was suggested that SAGA announce it at the upcoming Christmas party as well as have GaryMD53 come and give a talk about it. Rina noted that Red Deer geocachers have a similar event that lasts anywhere from 6-12 months.

GaryMD53 also gave Ross a number of pre-formed pop bottles to be used as geocache containers. SAGA can sell these at future events like the AGM. It was suggested that SAGA (Ross) contact Mike & Lois (Scratch1) for more bison tubes (approximately \$100 worth) to sell at future events.

Dallas notified the Executive on the Mega Event meeting that was held in August in Davidson. A committee has been struck chaired by Navyguider and a date has been set to host a Mega Event in Rosthern in 2014. If Rosthern does not work as a viable location, Outlook was chosen as a possible backup. There is a need for people to volunteer for subcommittees right now and for more volunteers in the future. They are applying for a rural economic development grant to help fund the Mega Event. It was determined that SAGA would likely become involved in the future when planning becomes more concrete.

Karin reported that the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2013 and that she has been contacted to help out with setting up geocaches at historic and archaeological locations throughout the province. SAGA agreed that we would be willing to help out with the planning and placement of geocaches. Karin will look into finding out more information about this.

The main banner image on the SAGA website was requested to be changed to a non-winter scene. Karin will make the changes immediately. All agreed that promotion of SAGA is needed as well more memberships. It was determined to advertise the organization more at events as well as through other agencies such as Saskatoon Tourism. Membership cards could be given to new members and information placed in geocaches to help get the word out about SAGA. All were in favour of this idea. Rina and Dallas will look into getting these cards made through VistaPrint, which is reasonably priced. Karin will also post to the Facebook group that SAGA minutes are available on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.