

# GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

Exploring the Last Frontier • [www.geocachealaska.org](http://www.geocachealaska.org)



## Oddball Cache Types

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# Tonight's Topic List



- Wherigo caches
- Night caches
- UV caches
- Chirp caches
- Letterbox caches
- Web Cam caches
- Virtual caches
- CITO events
- Mega events
- The “Trifecta” caches
  - Project A.P.E. caches
  - Groundspeak HQ
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Cache stash
- Groundspeak Lost & Found Celebration
- GPS Adventures Exhibit



- Wherigo caches
  - On-line Tutorial at [www.wherigo.com/tutorial/](http://www.wherigo.com/tutorial/)
  - GroundSpeak [Forums](#)
  - Cartridges available on-line at [www.wherigo.com](http://www.wherigo.com)
- Simple to Complex
  - Player may just follow along with little interaction
  - More complex cartridges have the cacher do something at each stop before they are able to move on
  - Layout is similar to a multicache; takes the players on an adventure, as long or short as you want to design it
  - Special equipment is required
    - Pocket PC with the Player software installed
    - Garmin Colorado, Oregon, or Nuvi 500



- Wherigo caches cont'd

- Need the coordinates for each location you want the cartridge to “play”
- Create box size for each location
- Create player questions and interaction for each box
- Actual cache at end of game play
  - placement must meet normal cache requirements for final
- Building a Wherigo Cartridge requires [downloading](#) and installing some free software

# Night Caches



- A night cache is a type of Multi-Cache that you hunt in the dark with a flashlight
- Night Caches can be listed as Puzzles or Multi-Caches based on what you're required to do to find the final cache
  - Look for the Night Cache, Flashlight Required, and Recommended at Night attributes (see pix above)
  - Usually you go to the posted coordinates and start searching for the 1<sup>st</sup> reflector
  - Many of these are only possible in the Winter in Alaska as there is too much light in the Summer

## Night Caches Cont'd



- Normally you will go from reflector to reflector, following a trail to the cache
  - Sometimes the reflectors are spaced out a little more if it is on an established trail so that other trail users (muggles) will not follow the same reflector trail to the cache location
  - Some of the caches have a twist to them:
    - If they have the UV Light Required attribute, at some point you will need an Ultraviolet Light (aka Black Light) to get to the final cache



## Night Caches Cont'd

- They don't always go forward; sometimes they will turn around and go back from where you came, so be aware of which reflectors you have found
- Some night caches will add an element of a puzzle within the cache with things to do at the reflectors
- Night Caches require a lot of CO Maintenance as the reflectors don't last forever, especially out in the elements of Alaska
- As a CO, you need to check it periodically
  - After wind storms/heavy snow fall
  - Trees have a tendency to fall over
  - Reflectors may “disappear” over the summer months



# UV Caches



- This cache attribute has become increasingly popular and is usually part of a Puzzle cache
- To locate this type of cache you will need an Ultraviolet Light (Black Light) to read what has been written by a special “invisible ink” pen
  - Equipment is available at hardware stores and office supply stores and is relatively inexpensive
    - Commonly used to test for counterfeit money
    - Pens are sold for making security markings on items





# Chirp Caches





- A small radio transmitter compatible with some newer Garmin GPSr's to receive extra data
  - Chirp must be programmed by the CO prior to placement
  - It can have coordinates with your next stage/final coordinates or clues to next stage/final
  - When CO returns, chirp will tell them how many visitors with compatible GPSr's have been to the site
- “Chirp” is currently a Garmin specific device, so GroundSpeak made some new rules:
  - For it to be a Multi-Cache, the CO must place the actual coordinates at Chirp locations for non-Garmin cachers
  - If you can only find the final cache via the Chirp data, the cache type must be listed as a Puzzle and the “Wireless Beacon” attribute must be displayed on the cache listing

# Letterbox Hybrid Caches

- A special cache type with only one currently in Anchorage
- Requirements are the same as a Traditional Geocache placement
- The Hybrid is both a Traditional Geocache and a Letterbox
- The object of Letterboxing is to locate the hide using directional clues from landmarks as it pre-dates the GPS system
- Once a Letterbox is found, you stamp the log with your personal ink stamp and stamp your personal logbook with the custom ink stamp in the box (cache)
- The geocache type “Letterbox Hybrid” can be found as a Traditional Geocache without participating in the Letterboxing aspect
- **Do NOT remove the ink stamp from the Letterbox!!!**
- Letterboxing is a completely separate activity from geocaching
- Visit [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org) or [www.atlasquest.com](http://www.atlasquest.com)

# Sample Letterbox Listing





## A ssssurprise

by Alaska Homeschoolmommy    

Rabbit Girl    

active Jul 12, 2009

Box #106706

**Owner:** Nana C and the Seedlings    

**Location:** Anchorage, AK [[MapQuest](#)] [[Yahoo! Maps](#)] [[Google Maps](#)]

**Plant Date:** February 23, 2009

**Last Modified:** August 3, 2009



Go on campbell creek rd to the North bivouc parking lot. Park at the far end of the parking lot and begin on the trail on the left side. Hug the left side of the trail and pass two intersections, staying to the left. After the second intersection watch to your right for two long fallen trees one on top of the other. Go to the tops of these trees which are buried in a spruce. Go to the back side of the spruce and reach inside. There hands your ssssurprise. Make sure to hang it back where you found it and make sure the lid is on tight.

There is a WOM bax near here (mine, don't worry) I MAY be willing to part with the clues.

Create Note

[A little Arkansas in Alaska](#)

[Alaska](#)

**NOTE:** Before you set out you must read and agree to the [Waiver of Responsibility and Disclaimer](#).

# Webcam Caches



- A “Grandfathered” cache type that involves getting your picture taken by a public webcam!
- This is a type of “virtual” cache that has no physical container associated with it
- There is one in Fairbanks at the Daily News Miner (LBK’s [GCKK54](#) “Black & White & Red All Over”)
- It generally takes 2 cachers unless you have the ability to get on the internet while at the cache site. You must go to the webcam site on the internet, capture a picture of you at the location and then upload it to the cache page with your log to get credit for the find
- No new webcam caches will be published, but existing ones can remain for as long as they are still active

# Virtual Caches



- Another “Grandfathered” cache type that has no physical cache container at the site
- Cachers go to the location and take a picture as directed by the cache listing
- You may also need to answer questions from the listing and email them to the CO
- Only a few virtual caches are left in Alaska
- No new virtual caches are allowed, but existing caches may remain as long as they are active

# Waymarking



- This is from an old part of geocaching that was originally called locationless geocaching
- Locationless caches were all archived and are no longer part of geocaching.com, but are now available on a separate site called [www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com)
- Fun and Educational, there are over 300 Waymarks in the 100-mile search area around Anchorage
  - Things like peace poles at Palmer Visitor Center
  - Oscar Anderson House in Anchorage
  - Sydney Lawrence gravesite in the Anchorage Cemetery
  - Smokey Bear statue at Portage Glacier
  - Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Kenai
  - Richardson Highway Pay Phone 17 miles outside Valdez



# Waymarking Cont'd

## Logging a Waymark:

- Enter a log describing your visit
- Take a picture and upload with your log
- Website is at [www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com)
- Great learning opportunity
  - Many are on the National Historic Registry here in the Anchorage and Palmer area. Some are still used as residences so you have to respect that
  - KENI radio tower at Westchester but where is the old Studio?
    - From the tower if you look close you can see the old studio that is now converted to a residence
    - The give away is the chimney has KENI cutout in the brick/stucco



# CITO Caches

“see-toe”



## Cache In Trash Out is a special Event

- Community service is part of geocaching to “give back” to the land managers by helping to clean up parks and wilderness
  - GeocacheAlaska! has a 2-mile section of the Seward Highway through the “Adopt a Highway” program
    - Seward Highway, Northbound from the Girdwood Junction (West by compass or GPSr)
    - Free to dump the trash picked up
    - Many hands make light work
    - 3 CITO Events per year are required



# The “Trifecta” Caches



- Groundspeak HQ
  - Have to get there at least once to log this one
  - Some of the Groundspeak Lackeys work here
  - Arrange ahead of time for a tour of the facility
  - Groundspeak Headquarters - also known as the "lily pad" - moved to the Fremont neighborhood of Seattle in October 2009. The Headquarters cache ([GCK25B](#)) is part of the "Triad" - one of the ultimate geocaching goals. To complete the Triad, geocachers must log the HQ cache, the original geocache location ([GCGV0P](#)) and the Project A.P.E. cache Mission 9: Tunnel of Light ([GC1169](#)).

# The “Trifecta” Caches



- Project A.P.E. caches
  - In 2001, fourteen geocaches were placed in conjunction with 20th Century Fox to support the movie *Planet of the Apes*. Each cache represented a fictional story in which scientists revealed an Alternative Primate Evolution.
    - These caches were made using specially marked ammo containers
    - Each cache had an original prop from the movie.
    - Only one original Project A.P.E. cache left in the United States
  - In Washington mountains east of Seattle. Not accessible in winter
  - A good history of this series is available [HERE](#)

# The “Trifecta” Caches

- The Original Stash Tribute Plaque cache
  - Great history about this cache on the website
  - Just outside of Portland, Oregon, there is a nice plaque and a cache is still hidden nearby
  - A historic monument for geocachers even though it is only 11 years old



# Mega Event Caches



- Must be attended by 500 or more geocachers
- You can see these listed on the home page of [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) or in the weekly newsletter
- Planned usually a year out so people can make arrangements to attend from great distances
- Attendees travel from all over the World

## Groundspeak Lost and Found Celebration

- A year long celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of geocaching
  - Lackeys attended events all over the world
- Still collecting stories about caches
  - Go on line to [www.geocaching.com/lostandfound](http://www.geocaching.com/lostandfound)
  - You can nominate a cache at this site
  - Watch videos or read logs posted here too!





## GPS Adventures Exhibit

- A [GPS Adventures](#) Exhibit Event cache represents attendance and/or participation at the GPS Adventures Maze Exhibit. Created by Groundspeak and Minotaur Mazes and made possible by Development Sponsor Trimble Navigation, the GPS Adventures Maze is a traveling educational exhibit developed to teach people of all ages about navigation, GPS technology and geocaching. A hands-on experience that features GPS technology (its history, current uses and future possibilities), it simulates geocaching by leading visitors through a 2,500 square foot maze rich with interactive science experiences.

## GC2MYM0



- The Adventure Science Center in Nashville, Tennessee will host the exhibit from **May 28 through September 5, 2011**. The Adventure Science Center ignites curiosity and inspires the lifelong discovery of science. The Center features unique, hands-on exhibits relating to six science concepts: sounds and light, energy, air and space, creativity and invention, health and earth science. The Center also provides live demonstrations and lab programs to students to complement what they are learning through the exhibits.
- **Adventure Science Center Details:**  
**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm.  
**General Admission Entry Fees:** Adults/Teens \$12; Youth 2-12 \$9; Youth under 2 Free; Seniors, Students with ID and Active Military with ID \$9.



# Questions?





# Resources

- [GeocacheAlaska!](http://www.GeocacheAlaska!)
- [Geocaching.com](http://www.Geocaching.com)
- [Waymarking.com](http://www.Waymarking.com)
- [Letterboxing.org](http://www.Letterboxing.org)
- [Atlasquest.com](http://www.Atlasquest.com)
- [Wherigo.com](http://www.Wherigo.com)



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## ***GeocacheAlaska! Is a nonprofit Alaskan organization which:***

- Promotes geocaching as an exciting, family-oriented activity that increases awareness of parks and trails
- Represents geocaching interests in public forums and to recreational land managers
- Increases awareness of geocaching issues through interaction with other outdoor activity groups and public
- Educates geocachers about low impact geocaching and promotes stewardship of our natural resources
- Promotes the "Cache In Trash Out" program to help with the maintenance of parks and trail systems
- Encourages individuals and families to get outside and enjoy Alaska's outdoor recreational opportunities
- Provides opportunities for the geocaching community to meet and socialize with like-minded geocachers
- Maintains an extensive website with local caching information, as well as a lively forum for idea exchange
- Provides premium members access to extra benefits such as reduced prices on GeocacheAlaska! products and special events, and a free email address, while supporting costs of the website, forums and education
- Premium Membership is \$20 annually or you can sign up as an Associate Member for free
- Every Membership helps us towards achieving our goals!
- Membership applications are available [online](#) and from the hosts of this Event



**2010 GeocacheAlaska! custom [GeoCoins](#) are still available for purchase from the club fundraiser!**