

GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

Exploring the Last Frontier • www.geocachealaska.org



March 2013 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Recent Event Happenings](#)

[Breaking News](#)

[3rd Waco Flashmob](#)

[New Forum Login](#)

[New Editor](#)

[GeocacheAlaska! Online](#)

[Juneau Event](#)

[Cruise Caching](#)

[Geocruise to Alaska](#)

[Destinations-Denmark](#)

[Permit Status](#)

[Join GeocacheAlaska!](#)

[Online Archive](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—EVENTS

[GPS and Navigation Learning Lab](#), March 2, Homer

[Iditarod Crazy: CheckItOut A](#), March 2, Anchorage

[Iditarod Crazy - CheckItOut B](#), March 2, Anchorage

[Iditarod Crazy - CheckItOut C](#), March 2, Anchorage

[M0' PIE III](#), March 14, Anchorage

[1st Annual March Birthday Flash Mob](#), March 16, Seward

Pathtag FUNdamentals, March 21, Anchorage/Fairbanks

[Intro to Geocaching EduVent](#), March 23, Soldotna

RECENT EVENT HAPPENINGS

[3rd annual WACO Flashmob](#), February 2, Willow

[TB Exchange and Drop off](#), February 9, Fairbanks

[Juneau Constituent Meet and Greet](#), February 13

[Outdoor Safety FUNdamentals - Anchorage](#), February 21

[Outdoor Safety FUNdamentals - Fairbanks](#), February 21



President's Corner, by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

As I write this Anchorage is celebrating the beginning of Fur Rendezvous. One of Rondy's signature events is the World Championship Sled Dog Races. The iconic scenes of the race start on Fourth Avenue are an enduring part of the Rondy experience, and should be a

reminder to geocachers about why we don't walk down dedicated mushing trails in search of geocaches. It's our responsibility to know what trails are dog-mushing only and to observe their closure to foot traffic. The postholes created by human foot traffic are a serious threat to the dogs, and to our ability to geocache on public lands. Observe the closures and be a responsible cacher by keeping off any trail that's not rated as 'multi-use.' I would be grieved to have to answer a complaint about irresponsible geocachers causing injuries to mushing dogs.

Likewise, we need to responsibly avoid hiking on groomed ski trails. The Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage's members pay to groom the ski trails, and persons who walk on those groomed trails are essentially vandals. Although on public land, the trails are assigned a 'skier-only' designation by Municipality of Anchorage park managers, who have licensed trail maintenance and grooming to NSAA. Geocachers who flout the rules and hike on these single-user designated trails in the wintertime run the risk of ruining our ability to cache in city parks. If you can't travel off-trail in the winter to a particular cache, then wait until summertime when the trails revert to multi-user status. Remember, these trails have been created by and are maintained year-round by the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage (with funds from dues paid by individual members). We have a responsibility to respect fellow park users and their investments in the parks where we play. I'm addressing this issue because of several cache logs I've seen recently asserting the cacher accessed the cache via trails dedicated only to either dog-mushing or skier-only trails. GeocacheAlaska! Inc.'s efforts to develop better relations with land managers and fellow public lands user groups are seriously impacted by this kind of irresponsible action. Please urge your fellow cachers to be good stewards of the trails – stay off dedicated use trails in the wintertime.



Reviewer's Corner – Geocache Exclusion Zones, by Greatland Reviewer

Sometimes cachers forget geocaching is supposed to be a fun family-oriented activity and they post cache or travelbug/geocoin logs that contain profanity, threats, or other inappropriate content.

Obscene and threatening language is in violation of Groundspeak's Terms of Use and the offending log should be deleted immediately by the cache/travelbug page owner (see the Groundspeak Help Center [Section 6.8](#) for more information). However, sometimes the cache/travelbug page owner is offline and cannot take immediate action. Since neither the local Reviewer nor a Groundspeak representative reads every log posted, it is up to the geocaching community to self-police itself and keep the game family-friendly. Such logs may be brought to my attention via an e-mail to greatlandreviewer@geocachingadmin.com or taken directly to Groundspeak at contact@geocaching.com. I have the ability to edit/delete logs to eliminate

Breaking News – 2,000,000 Geocaches, by Eric Schudiske, [Latitude 47 Blog](#)

Join Geocaching in celebrating a major milestone! The 2 millionth active geocache was published on February 28 at approximately 5:11am Seattle time. It's located in Australia. The 2 millionth active geocache is [Overwatch #1](#)(GC46N4E). The traditional geocache is rated a terrain 3.5, difficulty 3.5 and promises to take geocachers to a lookout over the city of Alice Springs. As of 6:12am Seattle time, the geocache has not yet been found.

To celebrate this milestone – Geocaching will be rewarding the global community with previously unreleased [Geocaching Souvenirs](#). Hundreds of thousands of geocachers will receive never-before released country and region souvenirs. Find details [here](#). Geocachers also have a new way to thank geocache hiders. Share this new “Thank a Geocache Hider” [video](#) with those who place and maintain geocaches so many enjoy.

Don't forget to spread the word about geocaching by checking out and sharing the [Celebrating 2 Million](#)

inappropriate content and sent the offending poster an e-mail about the issue. Groundspeak representatives can take the same steps as well as lock an account for varying amounts of time depending on how egregious the violation is and whether there is an established pattern of Terms of Use violations by an individual cacher.

Cachers need to be aware that deleted logs are merely archived. This means that while regular site users and the log originator cannot see deleted logs, people with the correct site administrator rights can. Therefore, before you post something when you are angry or upset, think really hard about whether your log has content that violates the Groundspeak Terms of Use and that it is something you want to become permanently attached to your account.

See you on the trails!

[Infograph](#), and the videos [2 Million Geocaches in 1 Minute](#) and [Travel Bug® Travels](#).



Click to see the latest Geocaching Souvenirs to be released



Caching By Cruise Ship (Second of a two-part story about geocaching and cruising, by Wes Skinner/NorthWes)

Last month we presented cruising as an excellent method for geo-touring. This month we'll hear one couple's experience at a favorite Alaskan destination, and we'll talk about the upcoming visit to Alaska by a group of nearly seventy geocachers aboard a cruise coming up the Inside Passage.

Blazingpathways and Tomanoble recently chose to geocache their way around the Hawaiian Islands aboard a cruise ship. Here's Tomanoble's account: This was a great way to visit many Hawaiian Islands in a short period of time that provided lots of time for caching. Renting a car is NOT necessary for caching at any of the ports but does make it easier. We cached on Oahu, Maui, the Big Island of Hawaii and Kauai. The cruise was 7 days, 4 islands and 5 ports, 2 of which were on the Big Island - Hilo and Kona. Of these ports Kona had the least amount of time ashore and would be the easiest to not rent a car for. We rented one and ended up doing the least amount of caching that day because we went sightseeing and snorkeling instead. Don't worry, snorkeling was not for fun - it was prescribed therapy. Good thing my Occupational Therapist had taken the same cruise last summer and could prescribe beachside activities to do as therapy and other activities (including geocaching) as well. Even how I opened caches was a therapy exercise.

With ship sponsored activities costing up to \$400 per person per activity the cost of renting a car is nothing. Few cruise activities were less than \$100 per person per activity and offer limited chances to geocache while each car we rented was \$33 or less per day, plus taxes, and we could go anywhere we wanted and stop whenever we chose. All ports had geocaches within walking distance and someone we know took taxis to get a select few further out caches that they wanted to find.

Here are two of the more remarkable caches we found: **GCMFAC SECRET MENEHUME FISHING SPOT**. This cache is a short distance away from Honolulu on the southwest/southern coast of Oahu. After parking at a nearby overlook you make a quick run across the busy highway to get on the other side of the road where you follow a side gully on the edge of the road to a gully going uphill. The cache is located in this dry gully. The real fun for this cache starts after you sign the log and turn around to go back. You notice a tunnel leading under the road that is just tall enough to walk through leading to the ocean side of the road. Following the tunnel you come out on a ledge that was maybe 30 feet above where the waves were crashing into the rocks below the ledge you are standing on. After taking many photos and some video we followed the tunnel back under the road to the side gully which led us back to our car.



GC39R5N WAIAKANALOA CAVE. Follow Hawaii 560 around the North end of Kauai almost to its end at Ke'e Beach. If you are lucky you can find parking near the start of the trail to the cave. It is a short walk up to the cave, which is really a flooded lava tube extending a fair distance back into the mountain. To find the cache you do not need to swim into the lava tube. The cache is outside of the cave and well hidden. After waiting out some tourists we quickly found the cache and blazing pathways went to take some pictures inside the cave. (Image cave) As she was taking pictures some Native Hawaiians arrived and began a traditional ceremony. After listening to the chanting/singing for a few minutes



we wrapped up our visit and headed back to the car.

We also explored the Pipe Masters Surf Competition at Pipeline on the North Shore and **GC134P8 PINEAPPLE EXPERIENCE**, a well-hidden cache in the heart of one of Oahu's most popular (and tasty) tourist attractions.



GeoCruise to Alaska – nearly seventy cachers have chosen to visit the Great Land by cruising! by Wes Skinner/Northwes

CruisePlanners – advertising Bermuda and Alaska cruises on the geocaching.com website, this is the most-experienced geocaching cruise planner available. They have arranged a tour group aboard a cruise ship sailing from Vancouver to Seward which is specifically for geocachers. They'll be stopping in Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Icy Straight Point, and at Hubbard Glacier during their journey before arriving in Seward on July 5th. Many of the nearly seventy geocachers aboard this cruise are planning to spend Friday July 5th and Saturday July 6th in Anchorage. They're targeting earthcaches and hides at scenic locations along the Inside Passage, and are planning visits to Kincaid Park and **GC2YDRF** Cache Across America – Alaska. They'll be hiring transportation but are hoping to meet up with local cachers who'd like to show off their favorite cache locations here in southcentral Alaska. The group is keen on earthcaching and are interested in quality cache experiences rather than a run for numbers. GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is engaged in discussions about how we might host a meet'n'greet on Friday July 5th to welcome the geo-cruising crew to Alaska, so stay tuned for more details.

Juneau Constituent Meet and Greet, by Scott Sargraves/Fuzzybelly

Bullwinkle's Pizza was the venue in beautiful downtown Juneau that six local cachers, two cachers from Anchorage and two more from a lot farther than Fuzzybelly, converged on for a fun evening of meeting one another and reminiscing about caches found, and those yet to find. Oh and also to wish congratulations to Fuzzybelly on having come from the farthest to attend.

First Davidaknz arrived and ordered up a pizza and a pitcher. Shortly after that Fuzzybelly showed up. So the event started off with just two. Not long after that Nanuk of the north and her friend showed up to make it four cachers. Before the pizza arrived so did berryseekers3 and Pandora's guard, to make the total six. Then in came AKcraftster and AKITGuy making it to their first event and boosting the numbers to eight. Finally Ladybugkids showed up along with his alter ego Greatlandreviewer, carrying a bunch of goodies from the GeocacheAlaska store with him. That was considered ten. And they were all there to celebrate Fuzzybelly's accomplishment of being from so far away.

The group had pushed together a number of tables and everyone had their own stool. Clown noses got passed around and cachers all started having a wonderful time. LBK explained GeoAK to those who didn't know, and talked about how the organization could help. Barryseekers3 and Nanuk of the north talked of more events they may plan. Pandora's guard talked of caches he's planning on hiding. Davidaknz talked of finding the ones the guard has already hid. And they all talked about how fuzzy had come from so far away.

After everyone shopped the wares of the geoAK store and ate all the food, it was finally time to draw for door prizes and acknowledge the attendee who came from the farthest and that's when both halves of The_Ford_Prefect crew showed up.

They were just up the road enjoying the fine dining that Juneau has to offer. He happened to check his phone for local caches that may be available nearby and what do you suppose he saw? It was an event being held this very same day, this very same hour, and only blocks away. They gathered their things in a rush, and where do you think they went? To the event of course. Well they were warmly welcomed with open arms as all Alaska cachers do. They shared their story of how they only had two more states to visit, Alaska was one of them, how they had purchased plane tickets for a quick one day excursion to our great state, where upon they had stumbled across this event taking place and decided to attend, and how they had come all the way from Olympia, Washington to do so.

The gazes of the other cachers turned to see the bewildered look of amazement that had fallen over Fuzzybelly. The look of utter astonishment was pasted on his face. It wasn't long before a smiley from ear to ear graced his face and a hearty "welcome to Alaska" and a huge acknowledgement for having come from the farthest to attend could be heard within the place.

And so the event was a great success with cachers chatting and laughing into the evening.

3rd Annual WACO Flashmob, by lunchlady495/Susan Schachle

It was quite a different climate at the event this year from last year! From minus 30 last year to around to 25 above this year. Twenty one Cachers attended and stayed for some of the festivities. Thanks to all who came! We drew a name for FTF and Lilgray was picked for the honors! (Sorry for the mess up on the event page.)

There was also a Poker Walk and it was a real hard hike around the circle but everyone managed to make it around. Someone wanted to drive the Poker Walk (I won't mention any names) and Wolfmaster came away with the best poker hand. Hope to see you all next year too! We missed you FuzzyBelly and yes... perhaps it is you who brings the cold weather? Next year my little caching buddy Pinocchio just may show up... He forgot and slept in...AyayD and I have a good time putting this on.

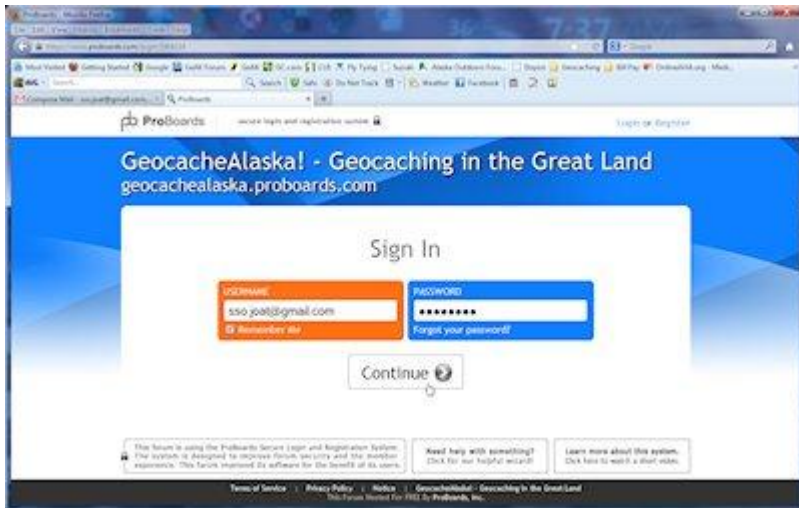


New Forum Login, by Scott Aleckson/SSO Joat

As reported last month, the GeocacheAlaska! forums have been upgraded to take advantage of a lot of new features offered by ProBoards, the forum host. Follow these instructions to log in to the new Forums. Go to this site... <http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/> You should see this screen.



Click on the Login button and you'll next be taken to this screen...



Enter your username exactly as provided or enter the email address of the account you used to sign up for your **original** GeocacheAlaska! account.

Enter the password that you had set for access to the forums under your personal account.

Check the "Remember Me" button so you'll never have to go through this again (your browser must be set to accept and save cookies).

You should now be in the forums looking at this page (it may be a different color)...

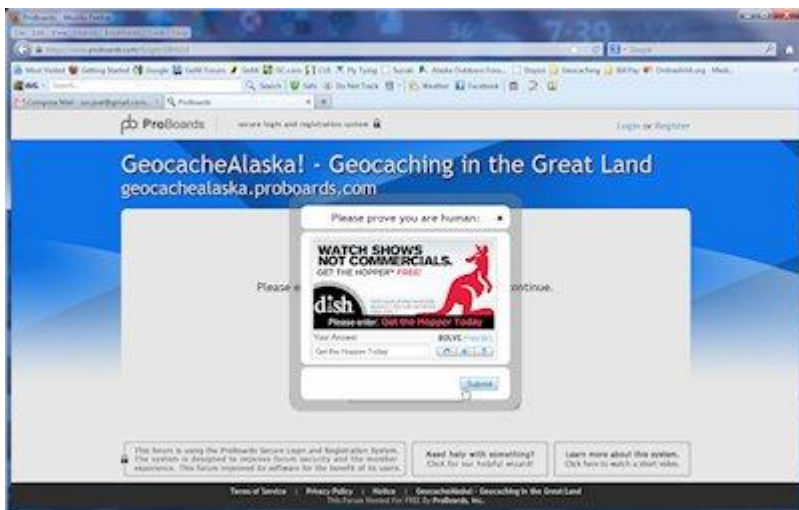


If your password doesn't work or you have forgotten it, click on the link at the bottom of the blue box that says, "Forgot my password".

This will send you to a Recover Password screen. Enter your username and click the Recover button.



A window will pop up to verify that you're a "human" and not a data mining or spam bot in China that is looking to steal information. They may have an advertisement video that you must play, or it may just be a static ad. In either case, there will be a phrase that appears at the bottom of the ad. Copy that phrase exactly into the text entry box below the ad. Click the submit button at the bottom right corner.



The next screen will tell you that the system has sent a message to the email account on record for your username.



Go to your email account and open this message. It will have a hyperlink that will take you to a password change screen at ProBoards. Enter your email address and your new password... twice. Follow the directions exactly. If it gives you another "human" checker, complete it just like the one above. Please send an e-mail to Scott Aleckson/SSO JOAT if you find any problems so they can be corrected.

Permit Status, by Randy Cler/Cavyguy

Chugiak State Park: The permit was submitted well in time to have it completed before the permit expired based on the last two years. I have a list of caches printed and am just waiting to hear back from park staff.

MatSu/Copper Basin: The permit was submitted and has been received. It is listed on the Geocache Alaska Web Site. The list of caches for this area has been printed and will be submitted as soon as I can drop it off.

Kenai: This is a new permit request. It has been submitted and I emailed a file with the list of caches last week. I am just waiting to hear back from park staff.

We do need a **Fairbanks** permit and it could be added to the Kenai permit however we will need a list of caches located in those parks.

I want to thank Blazingpathways and Tomanoble for their assistance in getting the list of caches together.

New Editor by John Scoblic/Scobey

I'd like to thank the board for appointing me newsletter editor. This first issue has been a tremendous challenge. A Microsoft Word expert I'm not but it looks like I soon will be. I hope future issues will continue the tradition of excellence established by out-going editor Mike Malvick but I know that won't be possible without your input. Please consider putting your latest adventure in writing and email it to me at Scobey@geocachealaska.org Subject: Around the State. As with any publication we have a deadline to meet. Please submit articles at least 5 days prior to month end. And also please send me any suggestions to improve your newsletter. Salamat!/Thanks!

Destinations: Dashing to Denmark, by Michael Malvick/Ladybug Kids

Periodically, my work duties take me across the Atlantic Ocean for business meetings and research. Most of the time, the meetings are held during the workweek, so by adding a couple of vacation days and a Saturday stay over, I can visit relatives and caching friends and reduce the cost of airfare by about half. It makes it much easier to sell an overseas trip to upper management when I demonstrate I can go to France at equal or less cost than I can travel to Houston, Texas, another frequent work destination.

Such an opportunity presented itself in January 2013, when I had to travel to Rueil-Malmaison, a Paris suburb, for a joint industry project meeting. I e-mailed several European cachers I knew and built an itinerary that started off with a visit to [Aeon](#) in Bremen, Germany, a hop to Paris for the working part of the trip, and wrapped up with a visit to [Worlddiver](#) in Lucerne, Switzerland. I'd met Aeon at a meeting in Oxford, United Kingdom, and renewed our acquaintance at last year's Block Party in Seattle, and Worlddiver when he visited Alaska to geocache and see the state, and we stayed in contact over the past couple of years with open invitations to visit each other.

During the planning stages, I mentioned to Aeon that I was interested in going north to Denmark to find my first Danish caches to turn my 14th European country red on my profile map and he offered to pick me up at the Hamburg airport upon my arrival and take me there. Not being one to refuse such a generous offer (good company and a driver experienced with driving Germany's autobahns), we planned a caching trip to Sønderborg, a Danish town that straddles the Alsund Inlet which separates the island of Als from the European mainland.



I flew to Hamburg from Anchorage via Minneapolis and Amsterdam on Delta Airlines, obtained a few snacks from the airport bakery, connected with Aeon, and then we drove two hours north through a light rain and snow to Sønderborg. I enjoy doing unusual/rare caches such as EarthCaches, webcams, and Wherigos, so our first target was the [Chris Cross](#) webcam cache on a bridge that was opened in 1930. My Blackberry wouldn't play nicely with the webcam site, but Aeon saved the day by working something out with his iPad and his iPhone just before the batteries in both



died. Then, we attempted the [Sporløs](#) Wherigo, but aborted the effort after Aeon's iPhone failed to progress from one point and my Oregon quit running the cartridge shortly afterwards. We took a break to warm up with lunch in a café before heading out for a walking/caching tour (more walking than caching as we racked up a couple of

DNFs) of the town which included the [Sønderborg Slot](#), an 800 year-old castle and former royal residence. We wrapped up our visit to the region with a visit to [Brohovedet](#), which features a nice view of the town and is close to a monument that commemorated an 1864 battle. We also found a couple other local park caches, including [Alnor Strandpark](#), which was at



a beach (strand is "beach" in Danish), but since it was dark and there was snow on the ground, we didn't don our swimming suits.



We broke up our three-hour return drive to Bremen with a stop at a roadside café where there just happened to be a cache encouraging motorists to take a break ([Fitness auf der Kühlerhaube](#)) which earned me a German state souvenir for Schleswig-Holstein, the first of four new German states during the trip. (to be continued)



GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

Exploring the Last Frontier • www.geocachealaska.org



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Follow GeocacheAlaska! Inc. on [Facebook](#)! Stay in touch and share your activities with fellow members of the geocaching community by visiting our [page](#) and clicking 'Like'. Stay tuned for more Facebook fun as our webmaster develops a new Facebook Group page where GeocacheAlaska! members can plan caching adventures, post photos, and pass messages within the membership ranks. This Facebook Group is designed to be yet another member benefit for Sourdoughs and Cheechakos alike.

GEOCACHEALASKA! MEMBERSHIP

There are two membership levels at GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

Sourdough Membership (formerly known as Premium Membership) affords you discounts in the GeocacheAlaska! online and traveling stores and events that have an entrance fee (Geofest, etc.), voting rights in Board of Directors elections and a warm fuzzy feeling for helping underwrite the organization's operating expenses that include web hosting, printing, banners, post office box fees, event prizes and lots of other things that are required to make things happen. Because GeocacheAlaska! is an incorporated 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, your membership dues are tax deductible.

If you cannot join as a Sourdough at this time, you may support GeocacheAlaska! by joining as a Cheechako (formerly known as Associate) Member. This will allow you to receive the monthly newsletter and e-mail announcements. More members at any level gives GeocacheAlaska!'s more clout and credibility during land manager conversations, so sign up today!

There are four ways you can join GeocacheAlaska! at the Sourdough level for \$20/year.

1. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) and click on the "Subscribe" button to set up an automatic subscription which will renew annually. Please enter your caching name in the provided box.
2. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) and click on "Add to Cart" to purchase an annual membership that will run through December 31, 2012.
3. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) to download a membership form you can print and mail with your payment.
4. Attend one of the upcoming GeocacheAlaska! events and speak to any Board Member.

Find us online at:

1. GeocacheAlaska! Website: <http://www.geocachealaska.org>
2. GeocacheAlaska! Forums: <http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi>
3. GeocacheAlaska! on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/GeocacheAlaska-Inc/180089884756>
E-mail to contact@geocachealaska.org

STATE PARKS PERMITS

Remember, if you want to hide a cache in a State Park, you may need a permit number for your cache page and the geocache. The 2012 permit number for the Chugach State Park is **12-044** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page. The 2012 permit number for the Mat-Su State Parks is **S12-010** and it must be on the cache container. Downloadable copies of the permits can be obtained from the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Manager webpage](#) or the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Use Forums](#).

ONLINE ARCHIVES

Previous editions of "Around the State" are now on our website. If you have missed previous newsletters, check out the series (including previous Trail Reports) [here](#).

*The editors of "Around the State" would like to hear from you. Submit articles or suggestions to scobey@geocachealaska.org
Subject: Around the State.*