



## July 2013

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### President's Corner

by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

Welcome to Summer! We've been experiencing some of the nicest weather I can remember in

June, with some record high temperatures and little or no rain. While this is terrific for getting out and geocaching it has produced record low moisture content in forest and urban vegetation. This means the wildland fire danger is unusually high. As you geocache, take care to obey rules regarding fires (such as the total ban on fires in effect across the Anchorage bowl, for example) and report any smoke you see immediately. Don't park your vehicle in grassy areas, as catalytic converters can be hot enough when you first shut off your vehicle to ignite vegetation as dry as what we're currently experiencing.

Please keep a close eye on cache maintenance. Cache logs fill quickly at this time of year, thanks in large part to visitors who're enjoying a taste of caching in the Great Land. A quick check of your caches at high summer helps keep them in pristine condition with adequate logspace for local and visiting geocachers alike. Most cachers carry spare replacement logs to put in caches when they find ones with full logs (or wet logs!) Do a bit of maintenance for the cache owner, and let them know about it by your log comments or by a private email message. The goal is to see continuous improvement in the physical condition of caches you find!

GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is looking for volunteers to work with the organization to accomplish our goals of improving relationships with land managers, keeping public lands open for geocaching, and educating the public about our game. Perhaps some of the most enjoyable volunteer efforts center around social aspects of geocaching, such as hosting events or CITO activities. Our fundraising committee is very effective at producing Alaska-centric geocaching products, the sales of which underwrite a major portion of the organization's operating expenses. All of these activities need persons who are willing to invest a bit of time and energy in keeping GeocacheAlaska! Inc. a vibrant and effective organization. Please say 'yes' when you're approached to volunteer, or step up and ask about where you can help. If you're interested, we can show you how to be a success as a volunteer!

As a reminder, all of your Board of Director meetings are open to the public and to members of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. Board meeting dates are posted on our website at [geocachealaska.org](http://geocachealaska.org), and the meetings are held in the excellent facilities at the BP Energy Center in mid-town Anchorage. Come on out and find out how to become involved!

### Expand your Caching Experiences with GeocacheAlaska! Inc. by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

A major part of the geocaching experience lies in placing your own geocaches for others to enjoy finding. After all, a big smiley count wouldn't be possible without the combined efforts of

fellow cachers to place hides for us to find! Every type of geocache possible to find is also a type of geocache you can place (and now you're thinking "well, of course!") Some of us excel at placing puzzle caches (that SSO JOAT guy from Soldotna comes to mind) or has a knack for the twisty urban hide (jackcat14?), or brings us to place of unusual scenic beauty (ladybugkids are great for this aspect). There's only one Alaskan who's met the challenge of placing a Wherigo cache (Lilgray), and letterboxes are still very few and far between in our state.

If you'd like to step up your game a notch and add an event or CITO icon or two to your profile page, don't let inexperience hold you back. Check out the education links on your website at geocachealaska.org, where step by step guides are available to lead you through the process. If you'd like to receive support from GeocacheAlaska! Inc. to help underwrite your event, download the [Event Support Request Form](#) from geocachealaska.org, fill it out and submit it by email to your board (contact emails at our website – geocachealaska.org). GeocacheAlaska! Inc. can help with expenses such as the dump fees for a CITO, or by providing bling for raffle purposes at your event. Your board of directors at GeocacheAlaska! Inc. are just an email away too. Contact a board member (listed on our website at geocachealaska.org) and ask for assistance in planning an event.



Contents of the CITO Event Support Kit available from GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

More details about obtaining support for your event from GeocacheAlaska! may be found in the [GeocacheAlaska! Forums](#) and in the [April 2013 newsletter](#).



## Reviewer's Corner – Cache Page Content & Hints

by Michael Malvick/Greatland Reviewer

**Q:** Is there any cacher etiquette rules to follow as to how long potential cache GZ's can be held with groundspreak while a cache page is being worked on? In addition, is there a limit to the number of held spots by a single cacher who might be working on a number of them at once.

**A:** The answer to both questions is there is not a formal Groundspreak limit to how long a cache location can be held for development or the number of caches "reserved" by a cacher.

As a courtesy, Reviewers will hold a location at a cacher's request while they develop the cache page or a multiple cache project. One month tends to be the norm, but some projects stretch out longer. Puzzle and multi-cache development are two specific examples where requesting that a location(s) be reserved so the puzzle or final stages can be developed around the final location without running the risk of having to redo the puzzle or rework the cache page because a new cache is placed in the middle of things.

Cachers developing a cache series or wanting a cache published at a specific time on a specific day can also request that a location be reserved. Cache series (like the USFW Blue Goose Chase) take time to develop and a cacher could be chasing their tail trying to place all their caches ahead of other cache hidiers. When cachers request a specific day/time publishing, the cache page is reviewed per the guidelines, locked, and put in the publishing queue. Subsequent caches placed too close to these locations will be flagged for proximity errors. This very rarely happens.

The process for reserving a cache location is described in the Reviewer's Corner of the May Newsletter which may be downloaded from the GeocacheAlaska! [newsletter archives](#).

## Geocaching Milestone – Oldest Unfound

Geocache, Found Geocaching Update, June 24, 2013



It's the FTF (First to Find) heard around the world. The oldest unfound geocache in the world was just found this month. The traditional geocache [4.5lb Walleve](#) sat patiently for 12 years, deep in the Canadian wilderness.

The [search for the geocache took months of planning](#) and then eight days of canoeing through an arctic watershed to reach the geocache coordinates.

Read the full story on [The Geocaching Blog](#) and watch the video of the historic First to Find.

The geocaching world's attention has turned now to [Kougarok](#), placed June 23, 2001, in the Nome, Alaska, region. Follow [the debate](#) about whether this truly is the oldest unfound cache because a "throw down" cache was left in 2008 by a cacher who DNFed the original cache.

Is the original cache still out there? Is there a "real" FTF to be made? Will a cacher still trek up there equipped to find the original container and document the adventure? Place a watch on the cache page and monitor the geocaching.com forums for discussion and news.





## Memorial Luau BBQ by Sandra Disch/Snd83

In honor of Nation Luau Month, National Barbecue Month, and Memorial Day, we felt a BBQ was the right thing to do and it was for sure the right thing to do. We had plenty of decorations, food, and friends (and geo-pups) to make it a great Luau. We even had leis and grass skirts for anyone who wanted one, even if they wanted to put them on their head and be a blond for the day. At first it did not look like it was going to be a big turnout. More "I can't attends" popped up than "I will be there", but behold we had a wonderful turnout. Also it look dreary when the JDAX57 had to work and could not man the grill, but good Ol' Fuzzybelly and his little bro took over and made it a success. There was all kinds of great Hawaii themed food, and there was plenty to go around. Especially SPAM and Pineapple. The Group Photo was a ton of fun, we made sure that there were several Luau themed props to be included in the photo. To make things funnier many of the props went on a group hunt to the nearby geocaches in the area. Only in Alaska will you have a group of people dressed in crazy luau outfits running in to the woods to find a piece of paper to sign, just to say hey I found this spot. Oh and there were even new cachers in attendance. They got their first smiley while wearing a grass skirt. WAY TO GO! See how much fun you can have with crazy geocachers? They sure know how to have fun. There was a rather big Kahuna prize, won by the AK Hillbillies and many hope to see that one pop up on the geocaching hunt. They said to get your four wheelers ready, they are going to hide it somewhere far out. It was a ton of fun and I hope Alaskan Rainbow who took the decorations decides to throw a second annual Memorial LUAU BBQ. Thanks you to ever one who attended and brought great food and swag. I am looking forward to Halloween!!!!

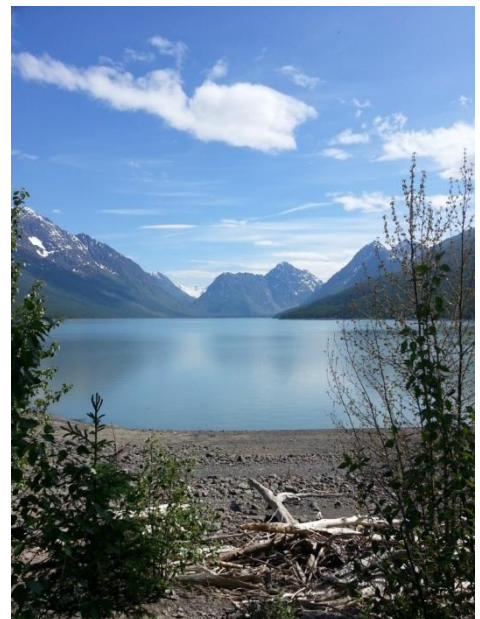


## **Multi-Event Report – HELP Celebrate Summer Solstice** by Patti Burton/burtonsinak

June 21, 22 and 23, 2013

Eklutna Lake in Chugach State Park was the site of three CELEBRATE SUMMER SOLSTICE events. Friday June 21, 2013 marked the first event with [GC45CDX "H.E.L.P. Celebrate SOLSTICE Friday BBQ and Campout"](#) hosted by Tomanoble. Geocachers arrived throughout Friday and into the evening from around Alaska with representation from Minnesota (AKBubbles) and Kentucky (GreyGhost54). Blazingpathways said it best:

"We assembled at group campground "B". All those Beautiful B's ...  
2 Bereaved B's ... BBQ covered in plastic, no fires tonight  
3 Bountiful B's ... Bush's Baked Beans ala Heather, gluten free.  
3 Bubbling B's ... akBubbles, here from Minnesota.  
5 Boisterous B's ... Boys Bounding after Bouncing Balls, 3WLD1s, 907kyle, and 1 child of the wild  
1 Bestowing B ... TomanoBle handing out swag  
1 Brilliant B ... AKHillBillies claiming their coin



2 Bicycling B's ... AKcariBoozer and fuzzyBelly  
2 Bustling B's ... SueBee and Burtonsinak always ready to lend a hand  
"oh, so many B's to count ..."

The second of the multi-stage event was [GC45CHM "H.E.L.P. Celebrate SOLSTICE Saturday CAMPOUT"](#) hosted by Blazingpathways on Saturday, June 22, 2013. Geocachers arrived at the event site after a full day of hiking, biking, canoeing or driving (including Geocache Alaska board member FiremanAK with his family) to meet old and new friends, share stories and great food. We learned that we don't need a campfire to enjoy either campfire stories or s'mores! A highlight of the evening was learning the source of most geocachers' caching names!



The third and last of this multi-stage event was [GC48CYG "H.E.L.P. Celebrate SOLSTICE Sunday Meet N' Greet"](#) hosted by Burtonsinak on Sunday, June 23, 2013. In addition to many campers meeting on the trail for a tailgate lunch, the event was enhanced by the arrival of several day-tripping cachers including Polgera, Lilgray, AKBike&ski, Meljo, Tundra Tim, Karma!, Cavyguy and GetATM who didn't even know there was a tailgate lunch event until she drove by with her husband. The event, 8 miles from the trailhead, was made possible because of taxi and bus services provided by various members of the HELP team and other geocachers with ATVs.

There's a whole summer, fall, winter and spring of geocaching ahead but many are looking forward to making a summer geocaching campout at Eklutna an annual event!

## Meet N Greet our Fairbanks Visitors by Laura McDonald/MamaNanook

Earlier in the year I was contacted by [Old Man 124](#), from Nebraska, with the news that he and his wife, [Turtle Trax](#), would be spending a couple of days in Fairbanks. I love playing tour guide for family and friends and cachers who are visiting. I volunteered to take them around for some caching fun and other assorted touristy adventures. Imagine my surprise when I received an email from their friends in South Dakota saying they were going to drive up for the event too! I knew other Fairbanks/North Pole cachers would love the chance to meet them too, so I set up an event to welcome them.

The day before the event I played tour guide for Gregg and Jani (Old Man 124 and Turtle Trax). We hit many of the caches in Fairbanks and hit some of the tourist spots as well. We also made it to geocaching day at the downtown market. The next day we hit some of the caches in North Pole and of course the obligatory trip to Santas House to see him and his reindeer. It was there we met up with Will and Shirley ([SDWD](#) and [sdgal](#)) from South Dakota. Some more caches were found and then we parted to get ready for the event.



We all met at the northernmost Denny's in the world and shared stories about caching, traded path tags, ate, and enjoyed each other's company. It was wonderful to meet fellow cachers from outside and show them the best of Alaska in the areas that most people would never see on a tour. Those in attendance at the event were firemanak, akdragonflyd, poodle chic, old man 124, Turtle Trax, SDWD, sdgal, goldiloxs, BabyNanook, NanookBoy, and MamaNanook. All visiting cachers were lucky enough to win an Alaska trackable. They also received a set of geocachealaska 2013 pathtags. Firemanak won a trackable from Nebraska.





## Fuzzy's Solstice record setting weekend by: Scott Sagraves/fuzzybelly

I'd been planning a trip to the Eklutna area for caching for a long long time. This was the target for me to set a new personal record for 2013, to have on my stats page, "Best Day". And yes it's more than twelve :). I'd be going for 23, to break my old record of 22 :). Then when the HELP team put together an awesome weekend of events on June 21st, I knew that would be the weekend for my record setting day.

Friday morning greeted me with the wonderful sound of the birds waking all around me, and the sun just starting to make it over the mountains. A light fog hovered over camp. I hoped it would burn off soon for the bike trip I had planned, but packed the Raingear in the my backpack just in case. I polished of a bowl of cereal as I finished loading water, snacks and camera. With sugar looking on and giving me the "I'm sure you're not leaving poor me behind" look, I put her back in the RV, jumped on my bike and headed into this beautiful wilderness playground.

I had the place to myself as I headed down the trail past the trailhead. It was like I was at a tennis match as my head went back and forth from side to side as I couldn't take in enough scenery to suffice my eyes. Cool green water from Eklutna Lake lay just to my right as I glided down the well maintained trail without a care in the world. To my left, plush green forests.....where anything could lurk.

As is my M. O. I passed the first twelve or so caches and just enjoyed the journey, but soon I couldn't resist to stop and find my first power trail cache. It wasn't easy, these hides aren't your typical POWER TRAIL caches. They don't all lay under the same looking rock one after the other, these are different from one another and very well hidden. After a short search the first smiley of the day was crossing my face and I was on my way to a new record, I'd hoped.



Not far along the way sunlight started working its way into my world, long shadows with sunbeams tracing through branches and leaves gave the morning that new, fresh feeling. It encouraged me on down the trail. I stopped at a nearby running stream and listened to its music and let the warmth of the sun cover me with my eyes closed. I could hear more birds greeting one another in the woods. Somehow I reached HELP 031, I had ten cache finds, and was ready for more.

It was time to jump the numbers, so I went for hunts every 528 ft. until I got to 039. A couple DNF'd along the way had me at 18. Up ahead and around the corner I could hear something, very faintly calling to me. I followed. There I found a lonely bench that needed comforting. It sat above the beach, with the Chugach mountains hanging above and Eklutna lake laying below in the valley. I watched small shore birds wade in and out of the water, wander up and down the beach, then fly away with fast moving wing beats right past my perch.

I knew I had an event to attend in the evening and I planned on it to be number 23, so I only had a few more caches to get. The trail was in almost perfect shape, only a couple areas had mud or where narrow due to erosion. Finally I came to a wild running creek with a bridge spanning across it, and an ammo can hidden by it girders. I enjoyed the views, signed my mark and headed on down the trail for one more smiley before heading back the way I came.

HELP 044 was my turn around point, a couple more finds on my way back and I was on target for my goal to be complete with the gathering and BBQ event that evening.

I had a simply wonderful time out in part of Alaskans playground, going for my single day personal record of 23 caches in one day. I couldn't have picked a better place for my adventure and thanks to the H.E.L.P. team's power trail and many others who placed caches, I'll have plenty more chances to come back and enjoy this area again. I'm already planning on it.

## Meet N Greet in Denali National Park by Laura McDonald/MamaNanook

After planning the Meet N Greet in Fairbanks, I was notified by two Florida cachers that they would miss the event and they were heart broken. They had traveled to Alaska five times before and at one time had missed an event by just two hours. I just couldn't let that happen. Upon learning the farthest north they would be traveling this trip was to Denali, I decided to have a meet and greet there. I so love meeting cachers and trading stories that I couldn't let this opportunity slip by. So, the [Meet N Greet in Denali National Park](#) was born.

AKTrekster graciously reserved three camping spots for anyone who wanted to camp the weekend of the event. I'm pleased to say that all three spots were used and a camping/event weekend went on without a hitch. Well, not completely, but for the most part.

After caching their way from Fairbanks to Denali, AKTrekster and pathfinder01 arrived early (I think they said 3 am) Friday morning to set up camp. About 11pm Friday night MamaNanook, BabyNanook, and Goldiloxs arrived to set up their camp. Saturday afternoon was



spent with those five caching their way around the Denali area. On the return trip down Stampede Trail we ran into AlaskaGrown who was after a FTF that was published almost a year earlier. I'm happy to report he was FTF.

I should have known that AKTrekster and pathfinder01 were setting me up for something because they kept asking if I had done the Denali Nenana Nexus cache. We headed to that cache and they snickered the entire time we were walking to it. I soon reached the crossing point and realized I was in for a foot chilling experience. I will have to say that I am the one who is known to be the swimmer of the Fairbanks bunch, and if there is water involved I normally end up swimming. I'm happy to report this time I did not end up swimming. My feet loved the cold of the water as it was a very hot day.

We returned to camp and were met by Alastair, aka [Kiwi Moose](#) who had set up camp while we were out caching. Kiwi Moose is from New Zealand and is in Alaska visiting his in-laws. He married a local girl and came here to visit her family. We were soon joined by AlaskaGrown (Brent), who set up camp and joined us around the campfire. We then grabbed a few of the earth caches down the park road.

Sunday morning came and after a quick tear down of camp, MamaNanook, BabyNanook, and Goldiloxs headed to the event meeting spot to set up. We were soon greeted by our visiting cachers from Florida, [smithj9](#) and [acachingcat](#). We were talking when a cacher from the Air Force, [WxSarge](#), who just happened to see our sign showed up and introduced himself. It was great meeting him and we all look forward to catching up with him in the Golden Heart City. Soon everyone arrived and the story sharing began. Pathtags were shared, trackables discovered and shared, and friendships made. After the event some cachers decided to make the trek up the



mountain to find a cache and I think they may have hidden one too.

After this weekend, I think this might have to be an annual occurrence. Instead of making it just a two-hour event, I think it will have to turn into a camping weekend so we can have fun caching and camping, we will just have to find someone to hide some more caches in the area so we can all find them.

Those in attendance were WxSarge, colreido, [TheView](#), smithj9, acachingcat, AlaskaGrown, Kiwi Moose, AKTrekster, pathfinder01, MamaNanook, BabyNanook, and Goldiloxs.





# GEOCACHING COMES TO THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION MARKET

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, By Tony Roof/firemanak

On June 17, we took geocaching to the Downtown Association Market and set up a booth to promote geocaching and Geocache Alaska, as well as those who cache in the 'banks.

We hid a small cache (nano) in the plaza (because the preplanned location had someone passed out near it) and one advanced puzzle cache a couple blocks away. The puzzle was a photo style puzzle with photos of signs from vendors at the market, so you had to match the signs to the photos to get your digits for your coordinates.



We camo'ed up a bison and dropped it into this box to see if anyone could find it... Worked great until a 4 year old took the camo off... ☺

We had close to 25 registered cachers stop by: close to half were visiting and either happened upon us, or saw the event on their phones. We handed out 46 of the new brochures promoting GCA and TWCIB, and talked to many, many more that just stopped by the booth to see what we were about. We were also able to provide assistance to kids who needed us to help explain the game to the parents. We had the GCA store and sample pathtags, geocoins, caching bags, and more. A big thanks to Emeindl and AkdragonflyD for hosting the booth, and to AkdragonflyD,

Pathfinder01, Liquidearth, and Aktrekster helping make the event happen!

We are delighted to see new faces and gain new blood in this game of geocaching in the interior. We have decided to set a goal of becoming more kid friendly in promoting the benefits and educational aspects of geocaching in hopes of further building up our sport's future members.

Our local group has upcoming events like teaching the hiking club geocaching, a class for UAF's Osher



Lifelong Learning

Institute (OLLI) on geocaching, and all of Mamananook's flash mobs, some meet and greets, and more. Come to Fairbanks and meet some interesting geocachers.

We have been asked to come back again before the market ends in September, and look forward to spending further time on our outreach and education.

Hope everyone is enjoying the weather, and: Happy caching!





## Uncage The Soul, by Dr. Frank Moore/akerdoc

This is now my all time favorite cache find!

I was on a trip to France with my father ([UmpquaFlyFisher](#)) who landed on Utah Beach on June 7, 1944. A film group called [Uncage the Soul](#) is making a movie about my father's return to Normandy. My father went across this bridge ([Un Pont vers la Bretagne](#)) on August 1, 1944, riding on a half track vehicle.



As he was crossing the bridge, not more than ten meters from this cache, he saw a large salmon hanging from the side of a cafe. He thought at the time how he would like to return after the war to fish for salmon on this river. Sixty-nine years later, this dream was realized, and he was able to fish the Selune.

What is even more amazing is that we looked for the cache the previous day, couldn't find it and posted a DNF note. The Cache Owner sent me a message that he would replace it, and that we could find it in the morning. That evening, one of the film crew was taking pictures from the railroad bridge just down river from the cache. In the picture, you can see someone sitting at one of the picnic tables. It was the Cache Owner after he had replaced the cache. Even more amazing, it is the same table where my Mom, Dad, and I were sitting as the film group was filming us having lunch next to the river as part of the movie.



On June 5th, we went to the Utah Beach memorial ceremony and were able to meet the cache owner and his family.





## Jamming Through the Jasmer Challenge by Michael Malvick/Ladybug Kids

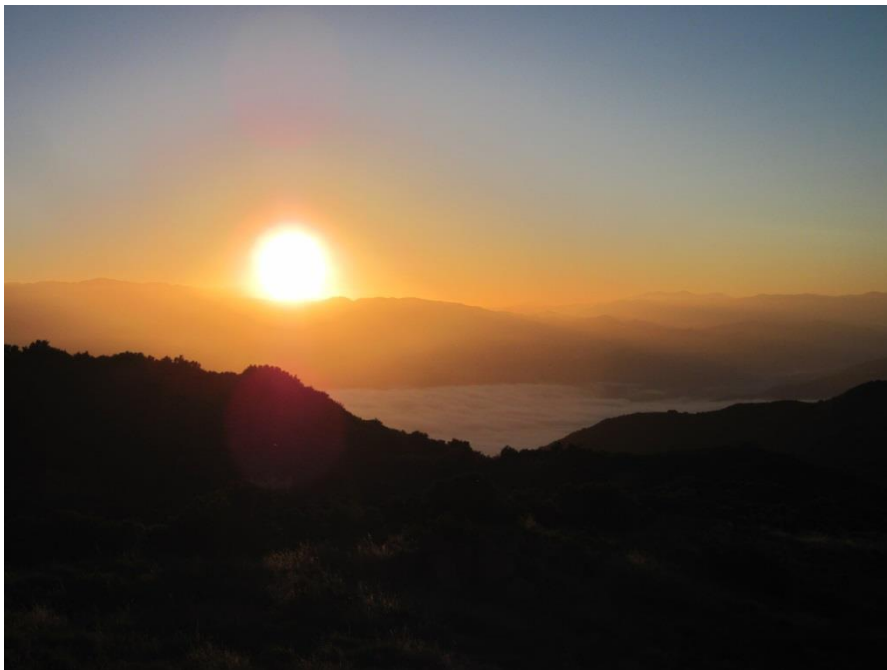
I became aware of the “[Jasmer Challenge](#)” about three years ago and was intrigued by the prospect of visiting some of world’s oldest caches placed during the era when geocaching was about bringing people to special locations. The challenge was originally conceived of by San Francisco Bay Area cacher [jasmerb](#) and requires a cacher to find a cache placed in each month since the inception of geocaching. Living in Alaska makes this challenge especially difficult because there are gaps in the cache hiding calendar as recent as February 2002 and with only two caches placed in September 2000 in Sitka, many of the older caches must be found outside Alaska. The following is an account of our journey through eight states over two years to fill in the last gaps and complete the challenge on May 28, 2013, north of Mesa, Arizona, with my brother and nephews, the [AZDbackers](#).

**May 12, 2011, [GC272](#), Where Eagles Roost, 2/11/2001, Oklahoma:** Woot!!! This is my oldest cache found to date, leaving me with nine more months dating back to May 2000 to find. I enjoyed rambling through the woods here and over to "Two Rivers" to kick off a day of caching. The small creek was flowing a bit from the previous day's thunderstorms and a great blue heron was fishing the lake shore. No eagles today, but certainly a beautiful spot.

**June 28, 2011, [GC106](#), Santa Barbara One, 12/28/2000, California:** I came across the old cache while planning our family’s Southern California trip and moved it to the top of my list of “must do” caches. I needed to find a cache in this month in my quest to complete the Jasmer Challenge (find a cache placed each month since geocaching began) and the location looked to be a winner. However, I met resistance from the rest of the family that wanted to focus on beaches, so I “compromised” by getting up well before dawn in a quest to reach ground zero in time for dawn.



Despite the early morning hour, I had plenty of company on the 101 and San Marcos Pass Road (location of my 45 mph bicycle crash in 1988 that resulted in a broken collar bone, thumb, and lots of road rash), but once I turned onto El Camino del Cielo, I was all alone. The drive to the end of the pavement at the gun club was straightforward enough, but once I left “civilization,” I had to take it easy so as to not ding up or bottom out the Lincoln Town Car Avis gave me as an “upgrade” at LAX a few days earlier. Fortunately, it hadn’t rained recently and the road is in good shape, so I made it up the mountain and along the ridge without any problems. I can’t imagine, though, what it would have been like to come bumper to bumper with another vehicle along some of the sections. There would have been some long sections of backing up!

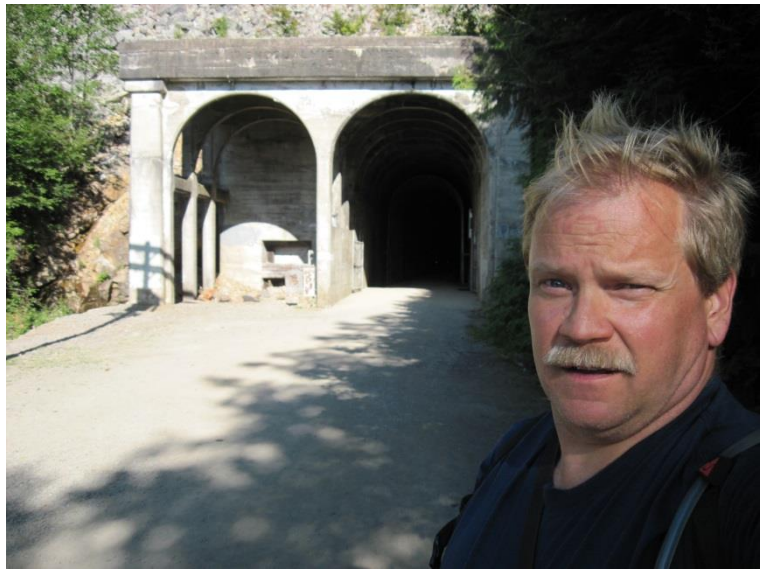


Once parked (about an hour from our hotel near the Santa Barbara marina to here), I hustled up to ground zero just in time to catch the sun pop above the mountains. I enjoyed the spectacle, took several photos (and now wish I’d shot some video), studied the local wildflowers, and then realized I was above the clouds on both the ocean (but I could see the Channel Islands) and the lake side. Once I got over all that, I set about searching for the cache. My GPS placed me in an open area, but past logs and Alamogul’s photo convinced me the cache had to be in the rocks. I did one lap and then another without finding the container, but I did find what appeared to be the cover and welcome page from the original log book (see photo) in one of the shrubs. Fortunately, a third circuit turned up the container (I blame sleep deprivation on my difficulties) and I was able to ink the new logbook and add the original relics I noted above. I dropped in a 10 Years! geocoin (seemed fitting given the age of the cache) and headed

back to town for breakfast with the family and more Santa Barbara area fun.

**August 19, 2011, [GC79](#), Iron Horse, 10/7/2000, Washington:** Placed by Jeremy, one of the original founders of Groundspeak. I

made a late afternoon drive from Seattle over Snoqualmie Pass to experience the tunnel and visit this cache. A brisk walking pace took me through the tunnel in about 35 minutes, but I was a bit tentative starting out because I saw a headlight that appeared to me coming toward me once I swung around the corner. I figured it was a mountain bike light, but the light stayed about the same distance ahead of me for the longest time. Finally, I realized, I was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel! While I could feel Fen Dweller's cold breath on me most of the trek, I never did see him/her/it and I managed to avoid running into the other pedestrians and bicyclists who were also enjoying the tunnel on a warm sunny afternoon. Once I emerged into the daylight on the western side of the tunnel, I sought out the stream to cleanse the grime of Fen Dweller's ill-kept home off my hands, blinked a few times, and went hunting for the cache. The hunt went quickly enough, I signed the logbook, and continued down the Iron Horse Trail for a few more caches, happy to have found my oldest to date cache (one originally placed by Jeremy, no less!) in my quest to complete the Jasmer Challenge. Thanks, R&L, for keeping this cache alive for others to enjoy!



**October 2, 2011, [GC116](#), High Ridge (in Kirkwood, first St. Louis cache!), 1/1/2001, Missouri:** I relatively recently started to get

serious about completing the Jasmer Challenge and this cache appeared on the radar as one I needed to complete all twelve months of 2001. I timed my departure from our nearby hotel to coincide with the gate opening to get some caching done before visiting local relatives. I found three other caches along the way to this cache and stopped to take a few photos of the early morning sun lighting up the area below. I dropped off a bag of travelers and also left a 2011 Alaska pathtag. Thanks for keeping this old cache alive and for bringing me to a part of St. Louis I'd never visited despite coming to town many times over the past forty years.



**June 12, 2012, [GCBF](#), Boston Cache, 11/19/2000, New York:**

As I looked at the list of oldest caches in New York and New Jersey, I was thrilled to see a November 2000 cache just 25 minutes from where I was staying in Warwick because finding an 11/2000 cache would leave me needing just five more months to complete the Jasmer Challenge. So, I got up early well before the

rest of the family and arrived at the Elk Pen parking area at N 41° 15.893 W 074° 09.255 (thanks, GeologyJohn, for the information in your log) and took a guess at which trail to take. I chose the trail at the far end of the parking area past the information board and that turned out to be the correct choice. Eventually, I picked up a trail marked with red diamonds and followed it until I was perpendicular to the cache. At that point, I went cross country and quickly came across a yellow paint trail that took me real close to ground zero. From there, I had an easy walk down a rock slot to ground zero and the cache. It was a real treat to find a nearly twelve year old cache with the original log book and greeting from the cache owner! I read some of the original logs (back then, people actually wrote more in the log book than their name, something like the summit registers of old), and dropped off an Alaska 2012 bear pathtag and a loggerhead turtle geocoin that wants to go to Maine. I then followed the yellow trail back to the red trail which I took for a while before branching off to find some of the Island Pond caches and completing a loop to the parking lot.





**August 16, 2012, [GC92](#), Unoriginal Stash, 10/22/2000:** After finding the Original Stash plaque, akgh519, Let's Look Over Thayer, and I walked up the hill and found this and two other caches in the area. This cache completed the first of four Jasmer Challenge squares I got the chance to fill in during a long weekend of caching in Oregon and Washington.

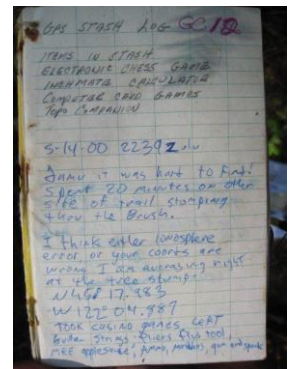
**August 16, 2012, [GC17](#), Geocache 7/21/00:** After following the directions in [orinth's log](#), akgh519 and I parked at the quarry and headed up the ridge, following the [Northwest Trails overlay](#). Akgh519 and I cruised right along on these trails, enjoying the gentle (relative to a lot of the hiking we do back home in Alaska) grades and the shade of the big trees. We paid homage to the Hypnotoad, continued up the trail a bit, turned left, and were struck by the



peekaboo views of Mt. Hood to the east. I was able to snap a few photos of the volcano, but didn't get the unobstructed view we'd expected. Well, we just weren't patient enough because just before we arrived at ground zero, we entered a clearing with a perfect view of the mountain, a bench to take it all in from, and a classic old tree snag. We took lots of photos, absorbed the view, found the cache and signed the log, and thoroughly enjoyed this trip to geocaching's roots when cache placement almost always was about the location. I left a 2012 Alaska Loon pathtag and ate a bunch of high bush blueberries/huckleberries. Thanks for the cache!

**August 16, 2012, [GC12](#), GC12 5/12/2000, Oregon:** Akgh519

and I made it here at about 1230 after flying into Portland from Anchorage, visiting the Original and Unoriginal Stashes, and stopping at several caches along the way. Many thanks to [orinth's log](#) from about a year ago, we were able to dial our goal into the Nuvi and found the access fairly easily. We risked pinstripping the rented georig and were able to drive all the way down the hill until we were even with the cache. We continued beyond the low point about 100 yards and reached a wide turnaround area where we parked. We then had an easy hike back toward the cache, found a path off the road that led directly to the woodpecker tree, turned right, and went straight to the cache. Once there, we took photos of ourselves, our trackables, and the log book, and celebrated filling in the May square of our Jasmer grid (only four more to go!). Not much water in the creek beyond the cache, but we were tempted to take a dip before hiking to GC17 in the 90+° heat. Many thanks to the caching community for keeping this cache alive.



**August 19, 2012, [GCD](#), Geocache, 6/21/2000, Washington:** After akgh519 and I rendezvoused with skifast at the Going Ape Event,



we headed for this cache for the views and to fill in a square on our Jasmer grids. On the way up, we met Totem Lake who shared Hike of the Month swag with us and after a long chat during which we were buzzed (roared?) by air force jets, we continued on up to the crest of the ridge. We really enjoyed the good trail graded so "conversational pace" was a fairly good clip. Once we reached the crest, we found a faint trail that led toward GZ that featured intermittent bushwhacking that never went more than waist high and made good progress. Once at GZ, we first searched where our GPSs pointed, but had to switch on our geosenses to locate the cache. Once the container was located, we took photos, sent some to cachers in other parts of the world, and then turned our attention to nearby "Living on the Edge" and "Mt. Margaret." It was great fun to come up here, visit this piece of geo-history, and to take in the views.



**September 21, 2012, GC3B, Potters Pond, 8/27/2000, Utah:**



August 2000 is a tough month to collect because there are only three remaining caches (Utah, Michigan, and Georgia). I missed an opportunity to find Lake Lanier, GC21, during a trip to Georgia in October 2011, and I didn't see myself getting to upper part of Michigan's thumb any time soon, so I took a day long layover when passing through Salt Lake City to drive to Potters Pond. My Nuvi routed me on I-15 to US-6 to US-89 to Fairview. Then it was on to UT-31 up the Wasatch Plateau to Skyline Drive to Bacon/Potters Canyon Road. Later I learned that UT-31 to Miller Flat Road to Potters Ponds would have also worked and allowed me to make a loop trip of Skyline Drive to Potters Ponds to Miller Flat and back out UT-31. No matter, the out and back trip on Skyline Drive, much of it above 10,000 feet along the crest was absolutely stunning in the Autumn sunlight with blue skies overhead and aspens in full-on gold foliage. Coming and going on Potters Canyon Road, I experienced several sheep flock road blacks that added a bit of whimsy to the trip.

Once into the Potters Ponds Campground, I paid my \$3 day fee to the iron ranger and navigated to Potters Pond 10 & 59 Year Birthday Bash, which hinted about a trail to this cache. After finding Birthday Bash, I followed the main trail a bit and then picked up a sheep trail that wandered over to Mountain Ninja. From there, I followed more sheep trails up to this hide for the find. As others have reported, the coordinates are off, but the cache is easy enough to find, though I wouldn't try it via snow machine in winter. I took photos, dropped in a bag of travelers, and then followed yet more sheep trails over to Bonham's Hot Wheel Cache and then wandered around a cache-guided loop to find four more caches before beginning the drive out to leave some contingency time before my flight in the event that I flatted or hung up the rented Camry. The trip out was uneventful, I found all the caches along Potter Canyon Road, and reached UT-31/pavement early enough to drop down toward Miller Flat Road to get the EarthCaches and a couple more traditionals in the area.

All in all, this cache is a great reminder that caching is much more about the journey than the smilie, and I *really* enjoyed this journey.

**May 28, 2013, GC57, Geocache, 9/9/2000, Arizona:**

I first became aware of the Jasmer Challenge about two years ago and it spurred me on to begin a wonderful quest of finding some of the game's oldest caches. I really enjoyed seeing the game's roots by visiting ammo cans placed at an iron mine in New York State, on a mountain ridge near Snoqualmie Pass, at the end of a two-mile long railroad tunnel, just below a 10,000 foot ridge in Utah, and many, many other fantastic spots that were all about the location. Over time, I whittled down the list to just September 2000, the most accessible to me being this cache and GC62 near Dallas, Texas. My brother and nephews, AZDbackers, live in the area, so I targeted this cache to complete the Challenge during a ten-day visit to my home state. We arose early to beat the heat and, because I procrastinated on getting the gate combination, opted to approach the cache from the "Travel Bug Trading Post" via the wash and return on the Liberty Pass Road to make for a seven-cache, four-mile loop hike. We saw a hawk, a big rattlesnake, and a small owl during our track and really enjoyed the views of the bluffs to the southeast as we climbed above the Salt River. My nephews



located the cache while I was taking photos of a nearby blooming barrel cactus and then helped me take photos of me with the cache, picked up a geocoin, and dropped off a couple of travel bugs, including one that wants to go to Goodyear.

Jasmer Challenge accepted and completed!!!

	Finds by Placed Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2000	X	X	X	X	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
2001	1	2	2	2	3	5	11	8	7	7	5	6
2002	8	9	8	23	18	18	12	16	15	18	13	9
2003	13	11	10	10	12	20	20	38	20	17	8	2
2004	10	16	23	19	38	33	55	23	13	19	11	12
2005	20	30	23	35	40	40	60	52	45	40	24	25
2006	24	23	38	45	50	63	82	74	63	53	44	35
2007	43	69	70	67	75	122	100	91	70	48	64	63
2008	48	62	68	60	86	76	76	92	74	33	38	30
2009	40	57	61	67	91	92	87	88	56	62	58	37
2010	25	36	74	84	143	92	47	70	89	108	34	25
2011	33	28	46	53	82	53	45	51	39	58	29	32
2012	17	45	37	29	54	33	36	80	54	62	11	23
2013	13	7	28	16	24	3						91
	313	409	487	534	732	642	652	684	561	501	358	327

158 Placed Months, out of 158 (100%)



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## 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 2013 permit number for the Chugach State Park is **13-KA-1289** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page. The 2013 permit number for the Mat-Su State Parks is **S12-061** 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](#).

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