

# Around The State



July 2014



*Photo credit: Nicole Disch / Snd83*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, July 4: [GeoCruise 4th of July Meet N Greet](#), 6pm, Anchorage

Saturday, July 5: [Pizza Hut Meet & Greet!](#), 6:30pm, Fairbanks

Saturday, July 12, [GeocacheAlaska! 2014 Adopt-A-Highway Summer CITO](#), 9:30am, Girdwood

Friday, July 18: [Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop Camping Kick-Off](#), 2pm, Spencer Glacier.

Saturday, July 19: [Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop Camping Day Two](#), 3pm., Spencer Glacier.

Sunday July 20: [Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop CITO](#), 2pm, Spencer Glacier.

Tuesday, July 22, [Alaska Screens the 2014 GIFF Film Finalists](#), 6:30pm, BP Energy Center, Anchorage

Saturday, July 26: [Geocaching 101](#), Noon, Ward Lake, Ketchikan  
[Caching on The Kenai - 6th Annual Picnic](#), 11am, Kenai.

Saturday, Sept 13: [Fairbanks Cachaplooza 2014](#), 4pm, Fairbanks.

# GeocacheAlaska! Updates

## President's Corner

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



We're just past summer solstice and several months' worth of long summer days still lie ahead. The month of July so far brings nine opportunities for Alaskan cachers to participate in social and CITO events around the state. To make sure you don't miss out on these opportunities, go to your profile page and click on the "List newest in [Alaska](#)" link near the top of the right column shown.

GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is responsible for conducting cleanups along the first several miles of the Seward Highway's encounter with Turnagain Arm just north of Girdwood. We conduct a CITO Event along that stretch three times during spring / summer / fall, and the summer CITO Event occurs on July 12. Check out the [Event Page](#) to learn details, and join your fellow cachers for a Saturday morning well-spent keeping one of America's premier Scenic Highways in pristine trash-free condition!

Several unique July events are presented briefly elsewhere in this newsletter. Be sure to look at the pile of fun that's happening at and near the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop south of Portage – events spread across three days combine CITO, scenery, campouts, and a ride on the Alaska Railroad in a mix that fits anyone's schedule. And – be sure to read about how GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is contributing to this year's Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF) with a [local screening event](#) – your chance to be involved in voting on the GIFF entries!

## Top Tens: Alaskan Cacher's Caching Achievements

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

This month's Top Ten list of Alaskan Cacher's Caching Achievements goes to the most prolific PhotographiCachers in Alaska. OK, so I just made that title up, but these are the Alaskan cachers who have uploaded the most images to Alaskan caches (and only Alaskan caches). We have some folks who have really filled up some SD cards on this list:

- #1 Baradora = 2,200 Photos!!!
- #2 Ladybug Kids = 1,508 Photos!!
- #3 NorthWes = 1,138 Photos!
- #4 FrostG1anT = 645 Photos
- #5 fuzzybelly = 587 Photos
- #6 Karma! = 535 Photos
- #7 blazingpathways = 356 Photos
- #8 lunchlady495 = 313 Photos
- #9 Eagle618 = 281 Photos
- #10 Ridgeseeker and Suzaru = 197 Photos



Now that should inspire the rest of us to finally go download the pictures from the camera that you meant to load to the caches when you logged them. Let's see some photos!

Look for another Top Ten list next month.

## Editor's Note

By Cathy Wilmeth / The\_Firefly

So many exciting geocaching events happening in Alaska this summer! Don't forget to take lots of photos. Then you can send them along with a brief - or not so brief - story about the event to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Send your submissions to [editor@geocachealaska.org](mailto:editor@geocachealaska.org) by July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. As always, everyone is also encouraged to send photos, caching tips, travel reports, newsletter suggestions, etc. This is your newsletter, let's hear what you have to share!

# GeocacheAlaska! Updates

## GeocacheAlaska! Event Support

*By Dana Russo / DR-AK*

Have you ever been to a geocaching event and wondered how you could host an event too? Have you ever had a great idea for an event but was unsure how to get it set up and make it a reality?

*Did you know that GeocacheAlaska!. can help?*

One of the many purposes of Geocache Alaska is to “Provide opportunities for the geocaching community to enjoy geocaching in Alaska and to meet and socialize with other geocachers.”

Events can be held any number of ways, from the 15 min flash mobs to full camping weekends, from dinnertime meet and greets to events in the middle of a lake. The possibility's for events are endless.

If you have an idea for an event and would like a little extra help getting it all together please chat with or [email](#) any one of the board members of GeocacheAlaska!

GeocacheAlaska! may also be able support your event by providing door prize donations or expense reimbursements as long as the [Request Form](#) has been filled out and submitted at least 30 days prior to the date of the event. There are a few other mandatory requirements that must be met in order to qualify for event support, the Event host/organizer/manager must be a member of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. (Sourdough or Cheechako member) the event must fall within the Purpose of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. as found in our By-Laws. The final approval of any expense reimbursement will be dependent on submission of proper store receipts for qualified purchases.

So start thinking about that next great event idea, reach out and ask for a little help if you need it. You might be surprised when 30 people show up at midnight for your next cupcake and ice cream event.

## Sandbox Snippets

*By GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors*

Watch for the Sandbox Snippets to return soon!

## Calendar Fire Sale!

The GeocacheAlaska! fundraising committee still has a number of our 2014 Photo Contest calendars in stock. We need to sell these as soon as possible to recover the printing costs. So we have dropped the prices to \$10 for Sourdough members and \$15 for everyone else. Please visit our online store at [www.geocachealaska.org/alaska\\_geocoins.htm](http://www.geocachealaska.org/alaska_geocoins.htm) and click on the order link to visit our store. Note there is a Sourdough store linked from the top of the public store. Thank you for supporting our organization.

## GeocacheAlaska! Sourdough Membership Year Changed

*By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT*

During the first quarter of this year, the Board of Directors did a thorough review and update of our club's Bylaws. You can download a PDF copy of it from our website [HERE](#). One item that had been in discussion since last year was to change our dues-paying membership year for the Sourdough members. We offer an annual payment method and an automatic subscription through PayPal. The subscription renews automatically every 12 months. But our annual members were all due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. To make things fair, we have changed all annual paying members to a similar 12-month cycle. Your dues will now be payable in the anniversary month of your original join date. Annual members will receive a reminder email during their renewal month to pay their annual dues or setup an autopay subscription on PayPal.

# Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

## Reviewer's Corner

By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer

As more and more caches are hidden in some urban and suburban locales, some cachers are having trouble finding an open space that complies with the 528' proximity guideline. The 528' proximity guideline applies to all physical caches and cache stages, but does not apply to the bogus coordinates provided for puzzle/mystery/unknown caches, virtual first stages of wherigo caches, multi-caches, and letterbox hybrids, virtual caches, EarthCaches, CITO Events, and Events. Whether or not a cacher is a Groundspeak Premium Member, there are a couple of tools that a cacher can use check locations prior to submitting a cache for review.

First, one can use the new planning tool automatically opens when a cacher works his or her way through the cache submission process, but one may also directly access the tool via this link: <http://www.geocaching.com/hidden/planning.aspx>.



Each red circle has a 528' radius and the outer rim cannot intercept the center of any adjacent circle. Therefore, any cache you place must plot outside any of the red circles. One may pan the map by holding down the left mouse button and moving in the desired direction. Once centered on a new location, one should click on the

“Refresh Map” button that appears in the upper right-hand corner of the map to display all the caches in the area. Note that the map does not display hidden waypoints and some other potential obstacles to hiding a geocache, but it provides a running start toward having one’s cache published on the first try.



- Find...
- ...other caches hidden or found by this user
  - ...nearby caches of the type that I haven't found
  - ...all nearby caches that I haven't found
  - ...all nearby waypoints on Waymarking.com
  - ...all nearby benchmarks

Distance	Cache Name	Reviewer	Rating	Date	Status
Here	Meet and Greet with Greatland Reviewer	by Greatland Reviewer   GC35XWV   Alaska	1/1	06/23/2014	Nice!
0.2mi	Shortcut cache	by Mizzlee   GC3XA79   Alaska	2/2	09/22/2012	05/04/2014
0.3mi	TOTALLY RAD!!!	by wild child ak   GC32P3Q   Alaska	2.5/2	04/16/2014	Yesterday*
0.3mi	Triad	by erickar   GC49C80   Alaska	3/2	04/07/2013	Yesterday*
0.3mi	Revilla up Hills	by sregord   GCV67N   Alaska	1.5/1.5	04/01/2006	Yesterday*

A second, more basic tool a cacher can use is located on the cache page itself. One just needs to click on the “Find...all nearby caches” link to get a list of caches with the distance and direction to those caches displayed. If a cache is shown closer than 0.1 mile/528' away, find another location.

Once you have located a spot for your cache, you may “reserve” it for a limited time while you develop the perfect container and camo or a diabolical puzzle by entering the coordinates into a new cache page and submitting the page for review with a Reviewer Note that states “do not publish, location check only.” I will reply with a Reviewer Note to confirm whether or not the desired location is publishable. Once your cache is ready to publish, simply post another Reviewer Note on the cache page to let me know your cache is ready for final review.

I spent a rainy Solstice morning performing a mini-sweep of Alaska’s active caches. I looked at the 83 caches that are currently “temporarily unavailable” and wrote Reviewer Notes to the caches that have had that status for a month or more. Caches with ongoing status notes from the Cache Owner were left alone.



I also looked at about four dozen caches that have a growing streak of DNF (did not find) and NM (needs maintenance) logs and wrote Reviewer Notes where appropriate requesting the Cache Owner to verify their cache is still there. As friendly reminder to cachers...the NM log should be reserved for when you actually find a cache and it needs some maintenance. If you do not find the cache, a DNF log is appropriate. One cannot possibly know if a cache needs maintenance if they did not actually find it. I archived only three



caches this time around, opting to give



# Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

Alaskan cachers prime summer weather to fix things up. I'll make another pass in late July or early August and archive those caches owned by Cache Owners that did not respond to the Reviewer Notes I wrote this weekend.

During the process, I inadvertently wrote Reviewer Notes to at least two caches that were updated by the Cache Owner after I had run Pocket Queries for the entire state. Those Cache Owners let me know and I removed the Reviewer Note. Please don't be bashful about letting me know when I make a mistake like that so I can continue to refine my processes. With thousands of caches spread across more than 600,000 square miles, I'm certainly likely to make a few errors while checking up on things.

Finally, thanks are due to cachers who send me e-mails asking questions or pointing out issues such as "No Trespassing" signs or log language and photographs that do not comply with Groundspeak's Terms of Use. In these cases, the Cacher is given the first chance to "make things right." Failing that, I'll take action or bump the concern up to Groundspeak if the issue is beyond my pay grade.

## GSAK Tip(s) of the Month

*By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer*



Geocaching Swiss Army Knife, GSAK for short, very well could be the most worthwhile application I have ever purchased. GSAK is a geocaching database management that takes the data from pocket queries (PQs) you run on the geocaching website and converts them into lists that can be filtered, easily updated, used to store puzzle cache solutions, macros for generating statistics for your geocaching .com profile page and quick checks for Challenge Cache eligibility, and many, many other purposes. A one-time fee of \$20 grants the user lifetime updates. You can initially download GSAK for free, but an increasingly persistent nag screen will remind you to pay.

This month's tips will describe how to obtain GSAK and how to add data to the cache that isn't included in the Groundspeak generated pocket queries.

GSAK may be downloaded from <http://gsak.net/>. This webpage contains links for downloading the application, a [GSAK 101 getting started guide](#), and a link to

the GSAK support forum at <http://support.gsak.net> where you can download any number of hundreds of macros written for GSAK and ask powerusers questions. Once you have downloaded GSAK, I recommend walking through the GSAK 101 getting started guide which provides step by step instructions on how to load caches into GSAK and do some basic cache filtering, file exporting, and GPS loading. Once you have mastered GSAK 101, [GSAK 201](#) provided guidance for customizing GSAK for your needs.

After you have uploaded caches individually or by pocketquery to GSAK, you may want to select caches to hunt by the number of favorite points or elevation if you will be taking a hike. Favorite points and elevation aren't included in the gpx information provided by Groundspeak PQs, so you have to download that information separately.

Elevation: Click on Database > Update Elevation > Only if missing > Update. GSAK will then use a variety of elevation sources to quickly populate the "Elevation" column in your data base.

Favorite points: Click on Geocaching.com access > Refresh cache data > All in current filter > Light (quicker) > OK. If you want recent logs for an older PQ, you may choose Geocaching.com access > Refresh cache data > All in current filter > Full details > OK. You can update 6000 caches per day using the "full details" option and 10000 caches per day using the "light" option.

Groundspeak has been busy rolling out changes to the geocaching.com website. Some of the changes are designed to enhance the Cachers' game experience and other changes are being made to streamline the behind the scenes administrative work.

If you have a question about GSAK you think would be of interest to other geocachers, please e-mail me at [ladybugs@geocachealaska.org](mailto:ladybugs@geocachealaska.org) and I'll answer it in this monthly feature.

## Groundspeak Changes in the News

*By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer*

Groundspeak has been busy rolling out changes to the geocaching.com website. Some of the changes are designed to enhance the Cachers' game experience and other changes are being made to streamline the behind the scenes administrative work.

First, the good news for players. The daily limit of Pocket Queries (PQs) is being increased from five to ten queries of up to 1000 caches each. A direct link to the PQ will be e-mailed to Cachers. PQs will no longer be sent to cachers as attachments to the notification e-mail sent after the PQ is ready.

Second, some behind the scenes work. Groundspeak requests all owners of Wherigo, Mystery/Puzzle/Unknown, Multi, and Letterbox Hybrid geocaches to specify what is at the posted coordinates of each of those cache types. If you own one or more of these cache types, please visit each cache page, click on "Edit" in the Admin Tools box in the upper right corner of the cache page, scroll down to the "Coordinates:" section, and check the correct button for "Physical" if you placed something (a field puzzle, a container with coordinates, UV ink, or other) or "Virtual" if you did not place something, yet cachers use other information there (such as a plaque, sign, number of objects, etc.) OR the coordinates are the bogus coordinates for another type of cache. Doing so will protect your physical stages from encroachment by other caches and open up areas for new caches when the posted coordinates are bogus. For more information, please visit [this](#) Groundspeak Help Center article.

Groundspeak also recently performed another round of archiving old, unpublished caches that had not been edited for more than a year. Any unpublished caches that are ongoing works in progress may be unarchived by contacting me through my profile and providing the GC# and a request for unarchival. The Groundspeak Help Center article on this topic may be found by clicking [here](#).

## [Splash and Cache](#)

Photos by [alaskache](#) unless otherwise noted.



**Mr Alaskache**  
Photo shared by [alaskache](#)



**A jumble of boats!**



**Motorin' down the river**



**Got this one! Off to the next!** Photo by [TrackUp](#)

## Recent Events

### WWFM - Alaska Style!

Alaskan cachers in three locations participated in the [11<sup>th</sup> Annual World Wide Flash Mob](#). A total of 792 mostly simultaneous Events were held in 52 countries during this increasingly popular event.



[NorthWes](#) hosted [WWFM XI - Anchorage AK - Town Square Flash Mob!](#) in the Anchorage town square. About forty cachers and five canines attended. Photo by [NorthWes](#)



At the same time, [Cavyguy](#) hosted [WWFM XI - Mat-Su - FlashMob](#) in Wasilla. At least eight cachers and one canine attended.

Not to be out-done, the burgeoning Ketchikan caching community participated in [WWFM XI CAMO'D CACHERS!!!!](#) hosted by [wild child ak](#). About a dozen cachers and one canine attended, including a couple from Germany.



Photo by [wild child ak](#)

[G.O.C.'s Alaskan Potluck in Sitka Street Park!!!!](#) was hosted by visitor [God\\_of\\_Caching](#). Rumor has it that local cacher [Op\\_Beardo](#) impressed folks with his grilling skills. Folks even got some caching done in between socializing and eating. Photo by [Op\\_Beardo](#)



Check out the cache pages for more about these great events!

[Meet and Greet with Greatland Reviewer](#), Ketchikan.

[Sitka Meet and Greet](#), Sitka.

[TWICE AS NICE AS PI II - ICE CREAM vs PIZZA II](#), Anchorage

[Geocaching Cruise Adventure Ketchikan Flashmob II](#), Ketchikan

[Alaska Geocaching Cruise Juneau Flashmob II](#), Juneau.



# Upcoming Events

## Spencer Glacier CITO Weekend

By Dana Russo / DR-AK

Members of Geocache Alaska will be camping at Spencer Glacier Friday July 18th- Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>

We will be kicking off our Spencer Glacier Camping weekend at the Spencer Whistle Stop at approximately 2pm on Friday July 18th. We will be taking the Glacier Discovery Train to the whistle stop, the train departs from Portage 2nd Stop at 1:25pm on Friday July 18th and arrives at Spencer Whistle Stop at approximately 1:45pm. We will spend the day together caching and enjoying each other's company.



Through out the weekend there will be three events held out at the campsite and lakeside. The first event will be [Friday](#) afternoon upon arrival at the whistle stop. During the event we will spend a few minutes talking about safety as well as the plan for the weekend. From there we will make the short and easy one-mile hike to the camping area. Once the campsites are set up everyone will be free to enjoy the Alaska Wilderness at its best. On [Saturday](#) afternoon we will meet back up at the campsites at 3pm to welcome any one that took the train out on Saturday. Just as the day before the rest of the afternoon can be spent caching and enjoying the views and the trails.

We will end the weekend doing what geocachers do best; we will hold a [CITO](#) event. We will start at the campsite and CITO our way back out to the train whistle stop as we await our ride back out to Portage.

For those that are interested in camping out for the weekend there are group camping areas that have been reserved for us. If you would like to head back

that afternoon the train departs from the Whistle Stop at 4:40pm. Also if you are unable to join us on Friday afternoon there will be a train available again Saturday July 19th same times, please make your train reservations with the ARR.

Currently the best price for the train ticket is through the Northern Lights Coupon books (still available around town) on page 9 of the Recreation and Entertainment section there is a "One complimentary one way or round trip fair on the Glacier Discovery Train." Advanced reservations are required & must be booked at least 7 days prior to travel.

Please indicate in your logs if you will be camping out with us for the weekend or just joining us during the day.

For all train ticket information you will need to call the Alaska Rail Road Group Reservations line at (907) 265-2240 and use booking number ARR150650.





## Upcoming Events

### 2014 Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF) Finalist Screening and Judging Event

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is one of five international geocaching organizations invited to participate in screening entrants to be presented at the 2014 Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF), held in Seattle WA as part of the Block Party weekend in August. Our local event is scheduled to occur on July 22nd at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Pizza and popcorn will be provided as part of the evening's fun and festivities. Log a 'will attend' on the event page early to help us with planning, and to make sure you're kept up to date on event announcements. Don't miss the fun and your chance to participate in voting on entrants!

Judging will be based on Production value, Content, Creativity, and Contribution to the global geocaching community. Award Categories include Most Creative, Most Adventurous, Funniest Film, Best Cinematography, and Most Inspirational. This is a unique opportunity for Alaskan cachers – one you won't want to miss. Make your plans now to be involved locally in one of the international geocaching community's signature events – the Geocaching International Film Festival!

### Caching on the Kenai – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic Event

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT



Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 26 from 11am to 5pm and plan to attend the annual [Caching on the Kenai](#) picnic event (GC4DACE). It will once again be held at the Kenai Municipal Park on the bluffs overlooking Cook Inlet and the mouth of the Kenai River. It's a nice 150-mile drive from Anchorage and well worth the trip.

GeocacheAlaska! is buying the burgers and hot dogs, which will be cooked up by SSO JOAT on the BBQ. We will have all the fixings to build the perfect burger or hot dog. We ask that folks bring their own beverages (please, no alcohol) and some kind of picnic-ready side dish. Consider salads and desserts and such. Lunch will be started around noon and run as long as it takes to get everyone stuffed with their fill.

After the food and a few social activities, there will be another running of the great daycache challenge. Teams will be formed up and then cut loose to race around the park and find as many of the daycaches as possible in a set time limit. At the end of the time, everyone will turn in cache points that they collected from the caches and we'll calculate the winners.

There will, of course, be some prizes for the winners as well as some drawing door prizes at the end of the event. And free smiles for everyone! Hope to see you there. And please post a "Will Attend" log on the cache page if you're coming to help us with the headcount and be sure we bring enough food for everyone.

# Caching Travelogues

## Cash or Cache?

By Frank Moore / akerdoc

I ([akerdoc](#)) just returned from a trip to Santa Clarita, California to attend my daughter-in-law's graduation from nursing school. While there I had to get in some caching. There are LOTS of caches in the Santa Clarita area, and several near our Hampton Inn Hotel. I decided to go out for an hour or so on my last morning in California. The last cache on my list was "[Water Cage 2fer](#)" [GC3BN57](#) about 1/2 mile from the hotel. It turned out to be a 2fer because I found a "CASH" container, and eventually a "CACHE" container. When I got to ground zero there was a cash register drawer with some coins and a couple of credit cards inside. Someone clearly had broken open the cash drawer. I made a cursory search for the "Cache" container without any luck and headed back to

the hotel to call the police. It turns out they had been looking for the cash drawer for two days. Someone had broken into a local restaurant two days earlier. I told the police where the cash drawer was, but they couldn't find it. They called me back and picked me up at the hotel. I took them to the "Cache- Cash" site. While there with the police, I told them about Geocaching, and I made another quick search for the "Cache", but still couldn't find it.

After checking out of the hotel, I took my wife, "[AKGrani](#)", to look for the "Cache". As usual, she was able to find it right away. I couldn't find it even when she told me where it was. I think I need to go back to Caching 101 school. Geocaching is definitely good for our local communities by getting people to go places where most people don't usually visit.



Stolen cash register drawer



Frank in police car



Police meet Frank at Hampton Inn



Santa Clarita Valley Sheriffs



Sandi with Water Cage 2fer



# Caching Travelogues

## Caching Colorado

By Cathy Wilmeth / *The\_Firefly*

Just over 24 hours after our flight from Minnesota landed in Colorado, we met up with a hiking group that we used to hike with back when we lived there. It was great fun - and that night's "hike" was more of a walk, and in a park I'd never explored! And hooray for me, there were caches here, too. [KP-X](#) and [Stealth Cache](#) made for quick finds where no one in the group even noticed what I was doing. [Pioneer Village](#) was a bit off trail, so I hung back a little before searching. I found it easily, but then a gust of wind blew the log and proxy TBs out of my hands and toward the pond. I'm sure I made quite a sight dashing around grabbing little pieces of paper. At this point I was well behind the group, but I just had to try for one more. [Growing up on the 105](#) was a clever hide, which didn't take me long once I looked around and really thought about where you could put a cache on this busy trail. I walked quickly to catch up with the crew and had fun telling them about what I had been doing.



*Not finding caches in Stapleton's Central Park.*



*Ghost 14 - Arapahoe City*

Less than 24 hours later, I was off to a meeting in southwest Denver, followed by a couple days in Colorado Springs for a convention. I had thought ahead and loaded a couple caches near the hotel onto my GPSr. Unfortunately, they both had DNFs on them in the couple days beforehand and my wee bit of time to go looking did not yield finds. There was an event on the evening that my convention finished, a get-together of local cachers later on, but after driving all the way down to meet me for the final banquet, Mr. Kevin and the girls were anxious to get back to our friends' home in Denver. So, Colorado Springs was a caching bust!

Not a problem, though, as the Denver metro area has lots of caches, both in the area we were

staying and out on the west side where we'd be spending a lot of time. So, one of the first places we checked out was a big park that had an awesome playground.

The girls played for a while and then we decided to do some caching. First cache...did not find. Second cache...too many worker muggles to even look. Third and fourth caches...did not find. First nights success aside, this was not a good way to start our Colorado caching adventure! It was also about this time that I realized that we probably wouldn't have time to hunt for the puzzle caches I'd solved. I was feeling a bit geo-



*All aboard!*

depressed. Luckily, that soon turned around!

The girls and I spent a few hours at the Colorado Railroad Museum while Kevin was at an appointment. Enroute, I noticed a 'historical marker' sign, so I spontaneously pulled off the road and pulled up the Geocaching app on my fancy phone. Sure enough, there was a cache, right there! A couple steps out of the car and [Ghost 14 - Arapahoe City](#) gave me a smiley. The girls were excited about finally getting another find! We continued on to the museum and had a blast climbing around on all the train cars, looking at the tracks, and even visiting a roundhouse. There wasn't a cache at the museum itself, but near the overflow parking area [Ride the Choo Choo Train](#) was a quick grab.



*Engineer in training*

After stuffing ourselves at our favorite Lebanese restaurant in Golden, Colorado, we decided to walk it off, and of course grab a few caches at the same time! 5 year old Sabre made quick work of finding [Kat goes to Lebanon](#). We took a bit of a circuitous route to [Pirate's Booty](#), but what fun that was to find an ammo can in such a populous location! The girls even found swag to trade. We then wandered the sidewalks and parking lots over to [Ducking Out For Ye Ol' Frosty Beverage \(#64\)](#). They loved the container and were a bit disappointed to learn they couldn't trade for it! We were all dragging



# Caching Travelogues

a bit by the time we signed the log on this one, so we knew it was time to try and beat the traffic back to the other side of town. Back to the rented behemoth-mobile we went!

The next day found us spending some time at another playground near our old stomping grounds. Oh gee, this one happens to have a cache, too! We took a break from slides and swings to find [Foothills Battleship - A3](#). The girls had their first experience with sagebrush on the walk to GZ.



*Pirate's Booty!*

The following day dear friend Cathy took a day off work to come play with us. We started off at the Colorado Museum of Nature and Science. Okay, that's not quite correct. We found two caches near the museum and *then* explored the dinosaurs and other exhibits inside. First off, we hunted down ["Fore!" ...never mind. Hole-in-one!](#), which was an awesome way to introduce Cathy to a unique find, not to mention ways to appear as if you aren't looking for something while standing on a busy street corner. We then strolled over to [Denver Benchmark](#), where we discovered that my GPSr is pretty spot on!



*Foothills Battleship - A3 GZ lies beyond the field.*

The next day found us north visiting with friends for the day. After we said our goodbyes, we attempted a little shopping and a little caching. The shopping mission was unsuccessful, as was our first cache search. But the second cache we searched for

gave us quite a treat! I'd never seen a cache quite like [Hookey #2: A Chill in the Air](#). Kevin made the actual find, after I'd gone right past it. So clever! I've added the concept to my bag of hide ideas. What big smiles we had after that find! We turned the geo-rig south after dinner, and stopped at a fire station to find our next cache. As we were disembarking the vehicle, some nice firemen came out to see if we needed help. They grinned knowingly when we told them we were just looking for a geocache. Turns out we parked on the wrong side of the building and so had to walk all the way around to find [Lucky 7's](#). The girls found this one - another ammo can!

Another day, another cache, right? The next day had us in yet another part of Denver. After our business was completed, we took a walk to find a couple caches. [Crypto's "Special Tool"](#) was amusing and gave us a challenge just in getting the log out to sign. [The Geocacher's Guide to the Galaxy](#) rates as one of the most fun caches I've found. We all loved the creativity that went into this one. (And it was fun to quote the book as we were looking, too.)

That day, as I was logging those caches, that I realized I had tied my 'finds' streak. That meant I could break the streak if I found one the next day. This is what led to Cathy and me, after dark, in the rain, with our phones as flashlights, hunting a cache in a tree in a city park. Worse, we did not find the darned thing! Thankfully, [Old Man Winter](#) was nearby, and he proved to be a much easier find, even in the dark in the rain.

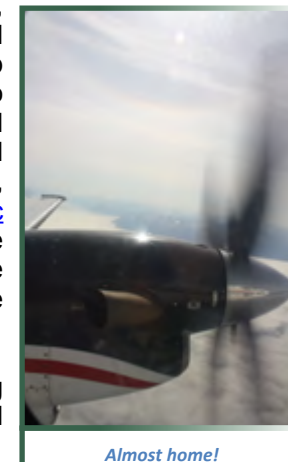


*X does indeed mark the spot!*

The following night was our last night in Colorado, and was yet another night for visiting with more friends. After they went home, and while Kevin was putting the girls to bed, Cathy wanted to know which cache we were going to go find. It was dark. It was snowing. The streets were sloppy. But there was a cache less than two tenths of a mile from their house, so off we went on foot. We searched and searched and searched. There were a limited number of places this could be, but we could

not find it. I was ready to give up, and had pulled up the geocaching app on the phone to find another to go after. Amongst my grumblings because it was wet and cold and the nearest caches all were disabled or had multiple DNFs, I hear a victory cry. Leave it to a newbie, eh? She had indeed found [The Electromagnetic Willow](#). I signed the log, she re-hid the cache, and we walked back home wet and satisfied. She'd helped me reach a new streak for cache finds - seven consecutive days! I think she's hooked!

The snow let up the next day and we began our long journey back home to Alaska, having accomplished much, geocaching and otherwise.



*Almost home!*

# Around The State

## 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.
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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>
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Also, join the official [GeocacheAlaska! Group](#) on Facebook to stay in touch and share your activities with fellow members of the geocaching community. This is 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. Visit our Group and request to Join so you can start viewing and participating with GeocacheAlaska! and your fellow geocachers.

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## STATE PARKS PERMITS

Caches may again be published within Alaska State Parks in Southcentral Alaska! The permit number is **14-KA-973**. The permit number must appear on the cache container and the cache page. Before submitting a cache listing within one of the parks, please thoroughly read the complete list of stipulations in the permit, which may be [downloaded](#) from the GeocacheAlaska! website.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

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](#).