

Around The State



June-July 2015

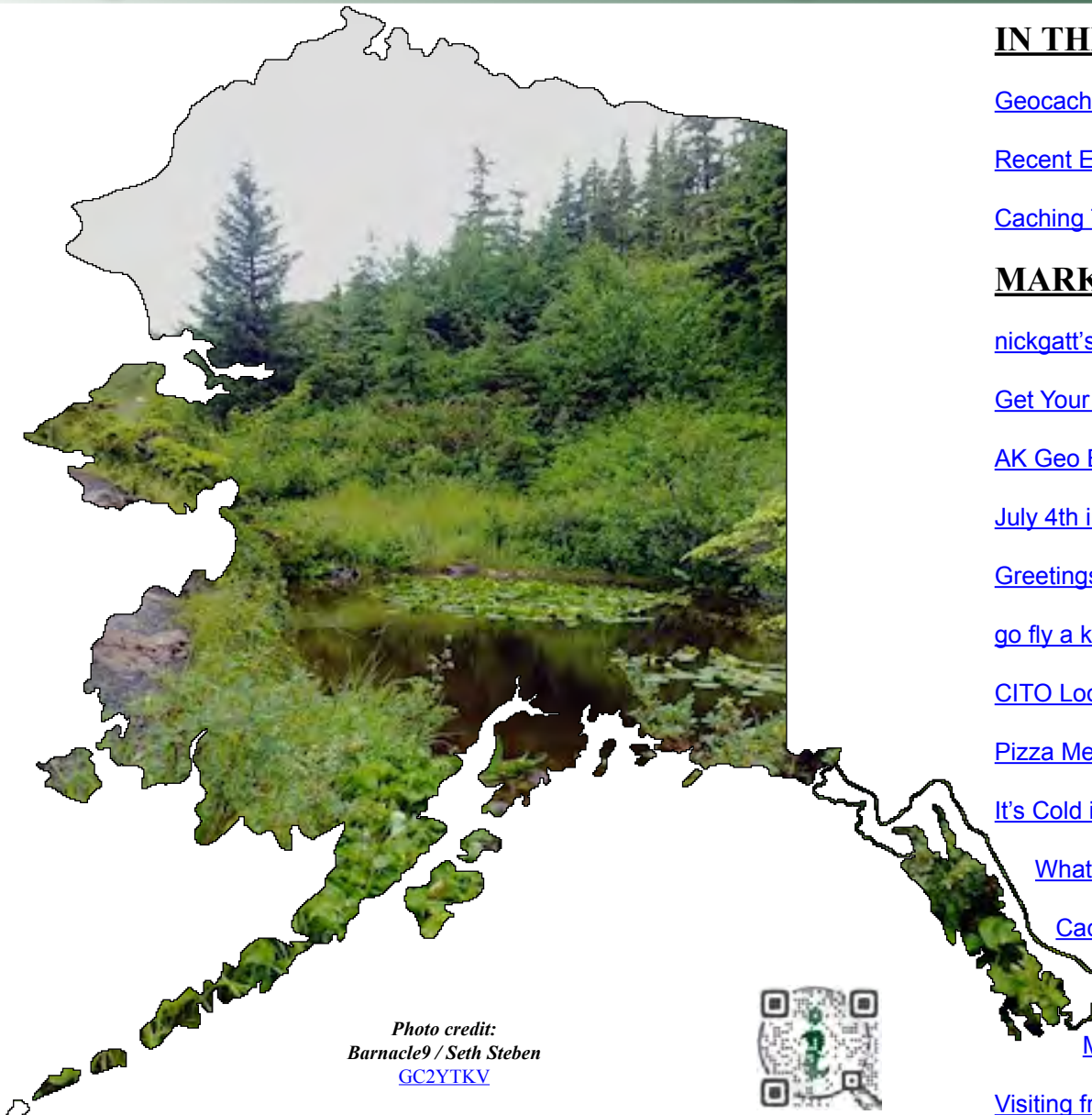


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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[nickgatt's 50th State M&G](#), July 3, 6pm, Sitka

[Get Your Road Trip 2015 Souvenir](#), July 3, 6pm, Anchorage

[AK Geo Event](#), July 4, Noon, Denali National Park

[July 4th in Seward](#), July 4, 8:45am, Seward

[Greetings from HQ \(Alaska-style\)](#), July 5, 8am, Anchorage

[go fly a kite!](#), July 6, 5:45pm, Anchorage

[CITO Looking for Charlie Browns Kite.](#), July 6, 4:30pm, Anchorage

[Pizza Meet & Greet - Juneau](#), July 7, 6pm, Douglas

[It's Cold in them thar Hills!](#), July 9, 8:15am, Skagway

[What Would You Do For a Klondike Cache?](#), July 10, 8am, Ketchikan

[Caching on The Kenai - 7th Annual Picnic](#), July 11, 11am, Soldotna

[July Stammtisch & Suprize!](#), July 14, 7am, Anchorage

[Meet and Greet in Ketchikan, Alaska](#), July 29, 3pm, Ketchikan

[Visiting from Atlanta-Alaska](#), August 8, 8pm, Juneau

GeocacheAlaska! Updates

President's Corner

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



At a recent 'Midsummer Night Science Series' talk sponsored by the BLM Campbell Science Center, I had the opportunity to introduce attendees to Geocaching. The experience made me wonder how other cachers would describe this game we play. If someone asked you to explain geocaching, what would you say? Why do you geocache? What's your favorite aspect of the game? Groundspeak sums this up pretty succinctly by saying "Geocaching is the real-world treasure hunt that's happening right now, all around you." Do you think of yourself as a treasure hunter? Or do you see yourself as an explorer, on a Road Trip looking for the next great adventure?

Anyone who's been online lately at geocaching.com has seen the banner ads announcing "[Geocaching Road Trip '15](#)" – this summer's opportunity to earn great new souvenirs while perhaps expanding your horizons beyond your geocaching norms. Take yourself on a geocaching road trip to learn about 'favorites', finding a road trip crew, going to extremes, getting in closer touch with the Earth, and putting on your thinking cap. Earn all those souvenirs along the way and you'll find yourself rewarded with the ultimate road trip souvenir of all – the Road Trip Hero! And yes – if you're like me, you'll find the Geocaching Road Trip '15 will take you outside your comfort zone along the way. I'm not a big fan of puzzles, but you can bet I'll be working on a couple for this challenge. I'm often accused of going to extremes, but in reality I'm not one of those guys who normally looks for the Difficulty 5 or Terrain 5 caches either (although I found a 5/3 on a whim last month!) I urge you to expand your horizons with Geocaching Road Trip '15 – and invite someone to get outdoors with you to learn about why you play this great game!

Oh – and if you've ever wondered what constitutes a great playlist for geocachers, there's one for your listening pleasure on the "[Geocaching Road Trip '15](#)" homepage. Thirty great tunes to keep you rolling on to the next cache, from artists like Willie Nelson, Ray Charles, U2, Johnny Cash, and Rascal Flatts, all the way to geocaching's own Dosenfischer. Get on the road to that next find – and take some great music with you!

Top Tens: Caching Achievements of Alaskan Cachers

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

This month's Top Ten list is a revisit of the most prolific PhotographiCachers in Alaska. 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](#) = 2,282 Photos!!!
- #2 [Ladybug Kids](#) = 1,964 Photos!!
- #3 [NorthWes](#) = 1,533 Photos!
- #4 [Farmergang](#) = 917 Photos
- #5 [FrostG1anT](#) = 776 Photos
- #6 [fuzzybelly](#) = 720 Photos
- #7 [Karma!](#) = 615 Photos
- #8 [blazingpathways](#) = 388 Photos
- #9 [lunchlady495](#) = 382 Photos
- #10 [Eagle618](#) = 332 Photos



Now that should inspire the rest of us to finally go download the pictures from the camera or phone 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 Notes

By Cathy Wilmeth / *The Firefly*

The submission deadline for the next issue of *Around The State* is **Aug 20, 2015**. I'm happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have about submitting! Send to editor@geocachealaska.org

New GeocacheAlaska! Pathtag on the Way

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

We have added a new “timeless” pathtag to our inventory of GeocacheAlaska! items. Production is complete and the finished tags are in the mail as of this writing, so they will likely be in our store by the time you are reading this. We did a little reworking of the lines and put our wolf howling at the moon logo onto a new pathtag featuring a glow in the dark moon. This pathtag does not have a date on it. Like our Aurora pathtag, this tag will continue to be stocked in our stores both online and at events for as long as there continues to be interest in it. We will be selling them in packages of 5 tags priced at \$10 for our Sourdough members and \$11.50 for Cheechako members and the general public. Look for them at your next event!



Service Opportunities with GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

We are looking for individuals to serve on committee and board positions. If you're interested in becoming part of the team who brings you fun events, works on great bling ideas, helps to educate fellow cachers and the public about geocaching, or develops closer relationships with land managers we'd like to have your help.

Contact Wes Skinner (NorthWes – president@geocachealaska.org) or Dana Rosso (DR AK – memberatlarge3@geocachealaska.org) to learn more.

World Wide Flash Mob XII – Anchorage Town Square

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes

Saturday morning June 13th found thirty folks gathered in Anchorage's Town Square as part of the twelfth celebration of a world-wide flash mob event. Intended to be an event which brings geocachers together for a brief moment all across the globe at the same time (if not the same place), this single annual event has helped introduce a multitude of geocachers to how much fun meeting fellow players can be. For some odd reason, the past few years have found us gathering in the midst of another great event – the Alaska Run for Women! It's been fun to have a cacher or two run over and check in with our crowd while carrying themselves along on the tide of pink washing through downtown Anchorage. This event has been a great way to meet cachers visiting Alaska too, with folks this year from Minnesota and Michigan making up part of the crowd. In past years we've had attendees from Europe, and have carried the celebration within Alaska to as far north as Barrow. In fact, one of our visitors from Minnesota (the moose-keeper at the Twin Cities Zoo) won the grand prize in our drawing – a WWFM XII Geocoin! After winning, she sped off on her road trip to spot a Wild Alaskan Moose – just another cacher getting Wild About Anchorage!



Were you one of the participants in the World-Wide Flash Mob XII? These folks were!

Recent Events

Not Just A Boring Event with sillygirl & jrr

By Michael Malvick / Ladybug Kids



Sometimes a visit from folks Outside is what it takes for me to drop my normal routines and do something different that reminds me why I live where I live. When jrr of sillygrl and jrr contacted me about hosting an event and expressed an interest in viewing the tidal bore, a quick consult of the tide table in my Oregon indicated we could pull off a combined event. I've seen the tidal bore many

times, but in recent years it's been by serendipity while hiking the ridges above Turnagain Arm, bicycling the Bird to Gird trail, or driving to and from points east and south. Plans were quickly finalized and the "save the date" [Event page](#) was published.

Our guests from our Hawaii brought near tropical weather with them and the day began beautifully. I got wrapped up in some last minute household chores and left for the event site without much slack time, made even less slack when I briefly returned to the house to pick up the mini-store. That extra delay put me about twentieth in line behind a Trooper road closure at McHugh Creek due to an especially nasty head-on collision. My phone's web browser would not cooperate, so I used text messages to let people know about the closure and to stay in touch with sillygrl, jrr, and NorthWes, who were already at or beyond Bird Point. Scobey picked up the feed and got the word out through Facebook. Fortunately, the injured were quickly treated by paramedics and transported to Providence hospital, a tow truck arrived, and the road reopened after about a forty-five minute delay.

Traffic was backed up all the way to Indian as I headed east and I eventu-

ally passed the bore tide at about the first GeocacheAlaska! Adopt-a-Highway sign, just in time to see a trio of stand-up paddleboarders catch the wave. I continued to ground zero where a dozen or so cachers were assembled for the show and walked down the rocks for a ringside seat of the incoming natural show. My 1530-1600 estimate was about seven minutes off as the tidal bore rushed past at 1607ish, just after ftl-ak and DR-AK and family pulled up to swell our ranks. Photos were taken of the wave and the attendees and then I rushed off to Chair 5 to get group seating before the dinner rush.



Unfortunately, word about the accident had gotten out and the restaurant was already full. So, everyone did what cachers do when they have time to kill and went caching. Forty-five minutes later, we were seated and enjoyed a dinner with great fellowship, great food, bottomless glasses of ice tea and water, and a waiter that happily split our bill three ways even though he wasn't supposed to which earned him an especially generous tip.

Many thanks to everyone who attended or tried to attend for showing sillygrl and jrr Alaskanstyle aloha to make this anything but a "boring" event.

NOTE: Cachers wishing to quickly determine bore tide times can use the tide table in their GPS. The tide table For the Turnagain Arm Tidal Bore Earthcache may be found on the Garmin Orgeon or the Turnagain Arm Tidal Bore Earthcache by selecting Where to? > Tides > Sunrise, Turnagain Arm > tap the Sunrise, Turnagain Arm bar that appears at the top of the map > tap the screen and use the left and right arrow buttons to set the desired date. Then tap the check box to view the tide times. The tidal bore will pass after the indicated time, with how much later determined by the distance east of the Sunrise waypoint (use 7-15 mph to estimate the delay). The bore will be larger the lower the low tide and when bucking a headwind coming down the arm out of the east.

Recommended Caches

False Pass Cache

By Larry Williams / WOCM

False Pass Cache

May 20, 2015

GCHXYA FTF 11 YEARS



Whoop whoop !! A rare event for a shared FTF on a close to eleven year old cache, myself, rookie and a muggle



three brave ship mates decided to tackle the harsh vast terrain of false pass, Alaska. A slip of Winter/Spring was still in the air, so I can see why the trail would have been less desirable in the summer months. Most of trail/brush hill was head high bushwhacking. After seeing a bear across the bay upon arrival we traveled prepared carrying a leather girl knife and a can of brake clean for a spray, as a fall back we explain to the



False Pass Stash
by SkookumRed

N 054° 51.378' Difficulty ██████████
W 163° 25.049' Terrain ██████████
SW 554 mi Size ██████████

Downloaded May 20, 2015
Date Hidden December 13, 2004
Last Found August 1, 2014

[Navigate to Geocache](#)

[Found it!](#)

Description >

Recent Logs >

SEARCH DOWNLOAD PRINT SHARE

muggle on how to play dead. Rookie spotted the cache first since he was breaking trail. The cache was undisturbed, yet it took two of us to break open the cache and we were glad to see trade items still in good condition. thanks for the hide. Rookie left a poetic log.

Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

Reviewer's Corner

By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer



Jumping into July

I begin this month's column by recognizing the community spirit of the Juneau cachers. Akvoyager passed away last summer ([obituary](#)) and a local cacher worked with his family to obtain permission for his caches to be adopted out to keep his legacy of well-placed popular caches alive. With family permission received, several Juneau cachers divided Akvoyager's caches amongst themselves and worked through me with Groundspeak to make the adoptions happen. Their efforts resulted in fifteen caches with 153 favorite points living on throughout the Juneau area. More information about cache "estate planning" may be found in my column that appeared in the August 2014 issue of this newsletter which may be found on the GeocacheAlaska! website at <http://www.geocachealaska.org/newsletters.htm>.

Cache Owners may update the coordinates of their owned caches by up to 528' using the "Update Coordinates" log. If the coordinate update is required due to relocating the cache, please be diligent about verifying the new location meets the 528' proximity guideline. I receive a log of all coordinate changes and spot check them. If a cache has been relocated too close to another cache, I will disable the cache page and request the Cache Owner to relocate the cache to a location that is proximity guideline compliant.

Geocachers are reminded to consider the "family friendly" aspect of geocaching when planning cache placements and cache page content. Placement near "adult" entertainment clubs, bars, and rougher parts of town should be reconsidered. If you wouldn't take your spouse, significant other, son, daughter, niece, nephew or mother to a location, why would you bring cachers there? Cache page content featuring explicit or implied "adult" content, violence, profanity, etc. is not allowed. A good measure is whether you would be comfortable with those close to you looking over your shoulder when you are viewing the cache page or sitting in the car when you visit the cache location.

There are about four hundred caches in Alaska with the "Needs Maintenance" attribute on the cache page and many of those caches are actually in fine shape. Groundspeak has reversed its policy regarding Reviewer's clearing the "Needs Maintenance" attribute on a cache page that is not being maintained by the Cache Owner. If you find a cache that has the "Needs Maintenance" attribute and the cache is in good condition (or you performed community maintenance to return the cache to good condition), you may notify me through the new geocaching.com instant messaging system or via e-mail through my profile and I can toggle off the attribute.

Cachers are again reminded that the "Needs Maintenance" log type should only be used if you have found the cache and it needs care. If you don't find the cache, the "didn't find it" or DNF log is the appropriate log. A cacher can't possibly know if a cache needs maintenance if they didn't find the cache, nor can they know the cache is missing because they didn't find it.



Upcoming Events

Caching on the Kenai – 7th Annual Picnic Event

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

Plan to head down to Soldotna on Saturday, July 11 from 11am to 4pm and plan to attend the annual [Caching on the Kenai](#) picnic event (GC4JMGC). It will be held at Soldotna Creek Park on the bank of the Kenai River. It's a nice 150-mile drive from Anchorage and well worth the trip. If traveling down Saturday morning, give yourself extra time as there will be dipnetting crowds as well as road construction along the way. We will be doing setup starting at 10am, so feel free to be a little early.

GeocacheAlaska! is buying the burgers and hot dogs, which will be cooked up by SSO JOAT on the BBQ (and based on the current weather pattern, we may be stuck with only the gas grill this year due to a ban on charcoal). 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 served at noon and run as long as it takes to get everyone stuffed with their fill.

After the food and a few social activities, we will be playing a new version of the daycaching game. Teams will be formed and participate in a combination gameshow daycache race. Instead of just cutting everyone loose with the same sheet of coordinates, this year the teams will be playing a trivia challenge and games of chance to win the coordinates of individual daycaches, which they must then race out and find to claim cache points. The points will be tallied as we go. This new twist to the game should be a lot of fun. I would highly recommend that those planning to attend brush up on their geocaching history and trivia.

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. As of this writing, I have about 55 people on my attending list.



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.
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. Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/geocachealaska/>
4. GeocacheAlaska! Facebook Page: [GeocacheAlaska! Page](#)
5. E-mail to contact@geocachealaska.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & Twitter!

Like our official [GeocacheAlaska! Page](#) on Facebook to keep up to date on things happening with GeocacheAlaska!

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.

 [@GeocacheAlaska](#) Follow GeocacheAlaska! Inc. on Twitter!

STATE PARKS PERMITS

Caches may be published within Alaska State Parks! All caches must have the permit number on the inside of the cache along with the cache owner's contact information. On the outside of the cache, you must write "Alaska State Parks Permit #15-KA-1994 Geocache AK" in permanent marking. The cache listing must state "Cache placed under GeocacheAlaska! Park Use Permit #15-KA-1994" within the description section. 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 Previous editions of *Around the State* are now on our website. If you have missed previous newsletters, check out the series [here](#).

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