

Around The State



September 2015

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[Fairbanks Cachapploosa 2015---FTFs for everyone](#), September 12, 5pm, Fairbanks

[GeocacheAlaska! 2015 Adopt-A-Highway CITO #3](#), September 19, 9:45am, Girdwood

[Pocket Query Creation and Filtering IV – ANC](#), October 15, 6:47pm, Anchorage

[Welcome to the Future Marty McFly!](#), October 21, 4:29pm, Anchorage

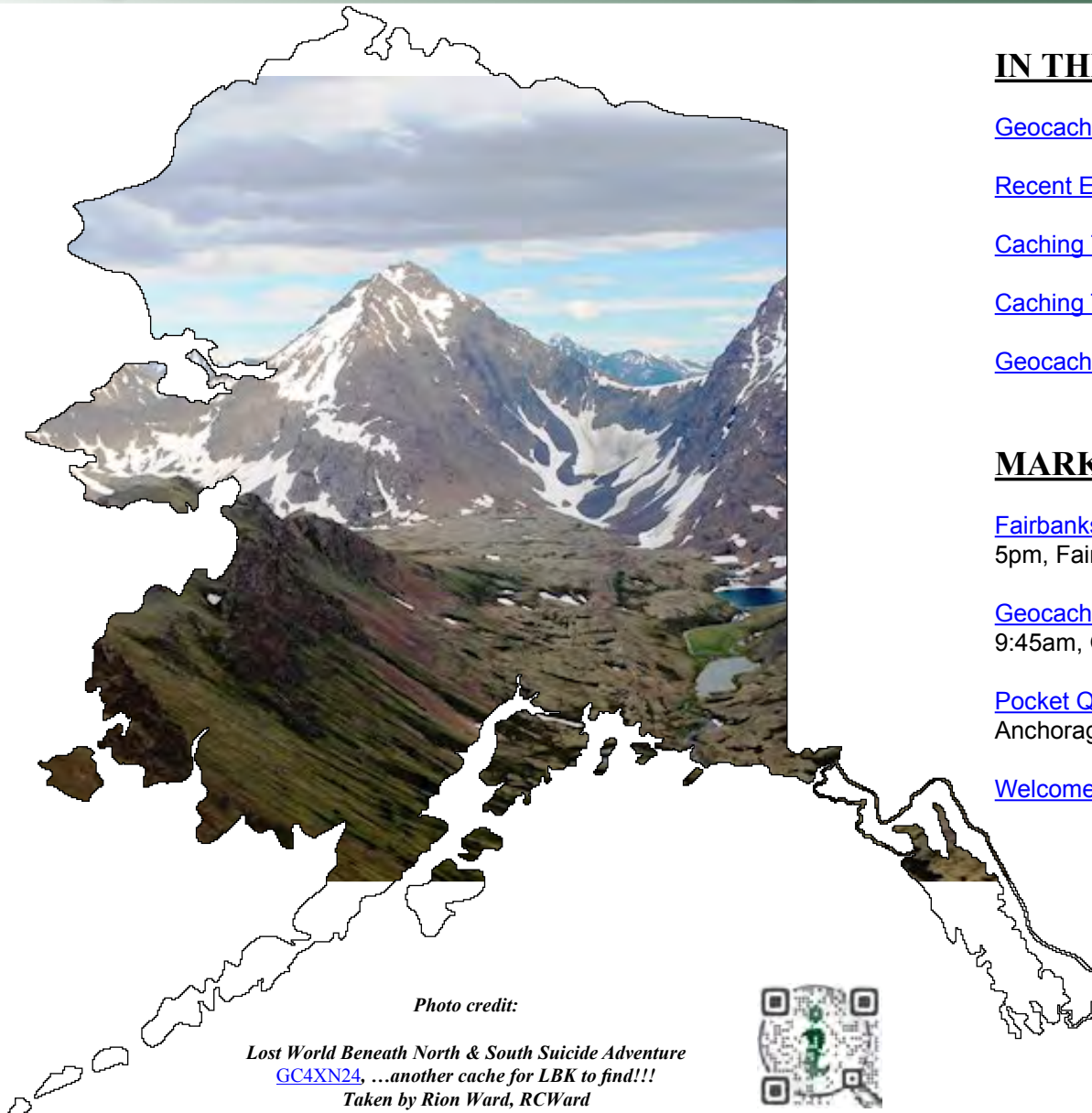


Photo credit:

*Lost World Beneath North & South Suicide Adventure
[GC4XN24](#), ...another cache for LBK to find!!!
Taken by Rion Ward, RCWard*



GeocacheAlaska! Updates

President's Corner

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



GeocacheAlaska! Inc. members were out in force at the 2015 Block Party, held at Groundspeak HQ in Seattle's Fremont district last month. Most Alaskans in attendance were wearing both their Sourdough nametags and the inaugural GeocacheAlaska! t-shirt. It was sheer fun to attend a mega-event with no responsibility except to have fun finding the multitude of caches in regular play around Fremont, as well as the 'lab caches' set up just for this event. Trolling through the vendor booths and swapping stories with other cachers occupied a bit of time too. By mid-afternoon Sourdoughs were used to hearing passing geocachers shout out 'Alaska!' as they saw our t-shirts around the event grounds. Such a visible presence helps establish Alaska as a geocaching destination, and reminds other cachers that we have a well-organized 'local' caching organization in the 49th state. The day after the block party found Alaskans hiking out to find some of Washington's oldest caches, or hiking out to the Tunnel event, or working through the lab caches to find the Space Academy geocache at the Museum of Aviation.



GeocacheAlaska! at the 2015 Block Party

Board action taken to fill open Member at Large seats

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes

At the recent August 20 Board of Directors meeting, action was taken to appoint members to serve out the two open Member at Large positions through the end of 2015. We extend our thanks to **freweez** (Louise Kempker) and **farmergang** (Mike Farmer) for answering the call to serve fellow members of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. by accepting appointments to the Board of Directors. The newly-appointed board members will be eligible for nomination to be re-elected to those seats, which will then serve for two years to the end of 2017.

Top Tens: Caching Achievements of Alaskan Cachers

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

This month's Top Ten list of Alaskan Cacher's Caching Achievements goes to the Alaskan Cachers with the highest find count on Alaskan Caches during one calendar year. As with all our Top Ten lists, only Alaskan cachers and only Alaskan caches are counted here.

- #1 [cavyguy](#) = 1,316
- #2 [Polgera](#) = 1,310
- #3 [Capra Hircus](#) = 1,239
- #4 [glenn.fish](#) = 1,113
- #5 [Boradora](#) = 1,065
- #6 [fyshstyx](#) = 1,038
- #7 [coloReido](#) = 959
- #8 [capsheldon](#) = 942
- #9 [southeastalaska](#) = 933
- #10 [FlightRiskAK](#) = 859



How many Alaskan caches can you log in one year?

Look for another Top Ten list next month.

GeocacheAlaska! Updates

CITO takes a disturbing twist

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes

One aspect of geocaching involves the CITO (Cache In Trash Out) ethic, where geocachers make a concerted effort to remove trash found while accessing a geocache location. The practice of this ethic, both as individuals and as part of a group effort at an event, has endeared geocachers to land managers here in Alaska. I've had several land managers tell me 'you geocachers are the only land-user group we've had making a regular effort to remove trash from public lands.' That's nice to hear, and it's a very useful tool to employ when we're advocating for access to lands to play our game. Please keep the CITO effort at the forefront of your time spent outdoors enjoying the cache hunt.

Recently I've encountered a new aspect of CITO that's troubling to me in high degree. In the last six months the number of discarded needles I've come across has skyrocketed. Where in the first ten years or so of geocaching I'd found discarded needles perhaps four times, I'm now seeing them all over the place. This summer's caching efforts inside the city limits of Anchorage have led to a needle find at one in five cache site searches. I'm often caching with grandsons here in the city, and it's been necessary to show them what to do when they come across abandoned needles – don't touch, and show me immediately! I carry disposable gloves when caching (for regular CITO), and



Needle encountered while searching for a bison in a spruce tree.

now find myself having an empty disposable water bottle along to put needles I find into for later safe disposal. This is a CITO challenge which needs input from health authorities for further education, so watch for an upcoming newsletter article about the topic. In the meantime, be alert – especially if you're caching with children.

GeocacheAlaska! 2016 Calendar Photo Contest

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

Once again, you have the chance to be the envy of geocachers all over Alaska and have your favorite photograph grace our 2016 GeocacheAlaska! calendar. Calendars will be published on Zazzle shortly after the winning photos are selected at the end of October and the club will purchase a small number of calendars to have at events in December. You will also have an opportunity to order your own copy for pickup or mail order delivery. Entry into the contest is limited to Sourdough and Cheechako members of GeocacheAlaska! (joining as a Cheechako member is free).

The Photo Contest categories are:

- **Adventure (extreme)**
- **Children**
- **Containers**
- **Flora**
- **People**
- **Places**
- **Whimsy (fun)**
- **Wildlife**
- **Winter**

GeocacheAlaska! Updates

You may enter up to THREE photographs in each category. Due to the format of the calendar, we prefer that all photos are in landscape format (the photo should be wider than it is tall). To be eligible for inclusion in the Calendar Contest the photographs must be taken in Alaska. Thirteen photos will be displayed full-size on the calendar with at least one picture chosen from each category. The number of photos selected from each category will depend on the number of submissions received. The photo garnering the most overall votes will be placed on the cover. Entries will be accepted through October 12, 2015, with the voting taking place during the next week. The Fundraising Committee reserves the right to review all submissions prior to opening public voting to accept or reject any photo entry for any reason. During creation of the calendar, we may select filler photos as needed to fill white space on the calendar.

By submitting your photo to this contest you grant GeocacheAlaska! Inc. the right to use and reprint the image in the Calendar, the Newsletter and on the GeocacheAlaska! website. Photo credit will be given to the photographer. There is no compensation awarded to the contest winners. Winners get the honor of having their picture grace a monthly page or the cover of the calendar and the happiness in knowing that their photograph was chosen to receive this honor.

Photographs may be submitted by emailing a **high resolution** copy to PhotoContest@GeocacheAlaska.org. Please use the tag **[PHOTO CONTEST]** as the Subject Line of your message to help our email system sort your entries directly to our inbox instead of junking them to the SPAM box where they could get lost in the clutter.

In the body of the message, please state which category the photo is being submitted to, the names and/or geonickname of any recognizable people appearing in the photo as well as the geocache the photo is associated with. Please provide the GC number and the cache name, or link directly to the cache page using the url format coord.info/GCxxxxx. Include the photographer's real name and their geonickname. Please include a title or caption for the image if you have one.

All photos submitted to the Calendar Photo Contest will be posted on the GeocacheAlaska! website and will appear in the GeoFest Slide Show in December. Some photos may be selected and published in the GeocacheAlaska! Newsletter.

All photo submissions must be sent to the official photo contest email account AND include all the requested information above in order to be included in the contest.

Rejected entries will receive one notice of missing information, inadequate photo size or resolution, or inappropriate content. The submitter will have until the close of the contest to correct any issues and resubmit their photo for further consideration.

If you have geocaching photos from your vacation or from outside of Alaska, these may also be submitted for inclusion in the GeoFest slide show by sending them to the same email account as above, but using the tag [SLIDE SHOW] in the subject line of your email. We still request that you include the info listed above, excluding the category. There is no limit to the number of photos you may enter into the slide show pool, so any and all geocaching-related photos are welcome. Rejected photo contest entries may be moved to the slide show at the discretion of GeocacheAlaska!

Note that ALL photo contest entries will automatically appear in the slide show at GeoFest. Other Alaskan sites that wish to show the slide show at their December or January events may request a copy of the slide show DVD at the conclusion of the photo contest.

If you have any questions, send an email to the photocontest email account.

Thank you for participating!

Editor's Notes

By Cathy Wilmeth / The_Firefly

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



Recent Events

Op_Beardo Builds a Box!



Want to know more?

Check it out:

[GC613DD](#)

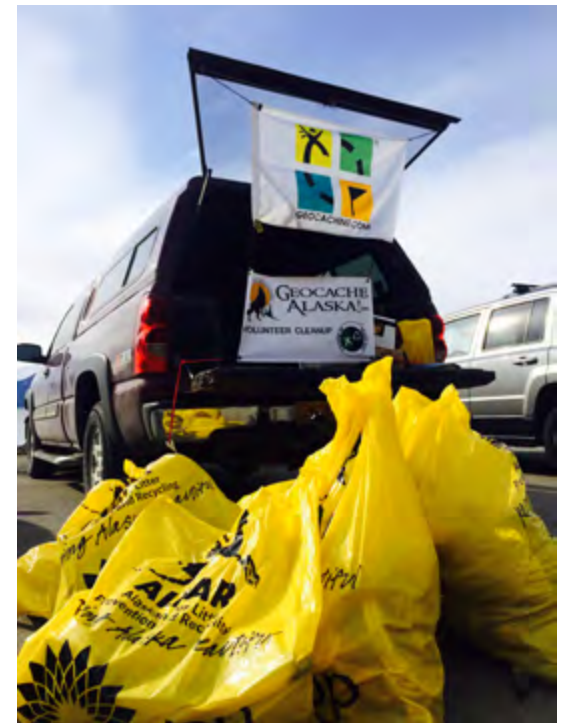
GeocacheAlaska! Adopt-A-Highway CITO #3, [GC629X3](#)

By Dana Rosso / DR-AK

Did you know that in 2010 GeocacheAlaska! Inc. adopted a two-mile stretch of the Seward Highway from the Alyeska Highway intersection to two miles north of Girdwood? Did you know that part of the adoption of that highway included two signs along the side of the road letting all of the passers by know who is responsible for that section of the road? Did you know that we are required by DOT to clean up that section of highway three times a year?

So if we adopted that section of road in 2010 and are required to CITO three times a year then that means that we have held 17 CITOs along our section of road, And on September 19th at 9:45am we will "High Five for the Earth" one more time and perform our fall CITO.

Have you been to all of the CITOs along our highway? Or will this be your first one? Come on down and join us, we will have trash bags and gloves, as well as the required reflective vests for your safety (Per DOT rules, no children under 11 years old or dogs are allowed to participate in the cleanup (however, you may have kids and dogs present at the published coordinates as long as they are not participating in the highway cleanup and there is a responsible adult that will remain with them while the CITO is completed).



Recent Events

GeocacheAlaska! Inc. spends some time at the Center of the Universe

By Dana Rosso / DR-AK

This year was the last Geocaching Block party being held in Seattle at Geocaching HQ, so members of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. showed up in droves to spend some time in the Fremont area and cache with fellow cachers from around the world.

Time was spent caching and enjoying the area, some spent time solving Lab Caches, there were over 70 of them placed all around Seattle, while others spend their time solving the puzzles in geo-art.

Whether you were old or young, there was something for everyone to do at Block Party. Up in park where everyone met for the group photo, there was the giant 15 to sign as the log, there were tables set up for trackables that wanted to go to different parts of the world, you could sign a giant replica of the original can of beans found in the first cache, pick up and purchase block party swag, and sign the log book for geocaching headquarters.

Further down the walkway, cachers were telling their stories of adventures they had had on a caching outings that got recorded for podcasts, which can be listened to on cacheraudio.com. There were also some photo opportunities where people could be Signal or a travel bug. There were different activities for the young cachers to do and earn their lab cache answers; coloring, mini boat races, jumping in an inflatable rocket ship, finding a certain rubber duck in a pool filled with them. Overall the children at Block Party got to have just as much fun as the adults that attended, and even get to earn some pretty cool prizes.

The day ended with a chat with two of the founders of Geocaching.com Bryan and Jeremy. They hinted at what is going to be next now that block parties at HQ are over. The overall feeling from HQ is that they want to try and find ways to bring the block party feel for events all over not just in the Seattle area once a year.

Each of the members of GeocacheAlaska! Inc. that was able to attend the event had a blast. This was a great way to show the world our organization and have a wonderful time together.



Recent Events

Caching on the Kenai – 7th Annual Picnic Event

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT



Picnic getting started. Photo by MitzieHeart

On Saturday, July 12, about 57 geocachers converged on the Soldotna Creek Park for the annual [Caching on the Kenai](#) picnic event (GC4JMGC). There were cachers from all over including 24 from Anchorage, 14 from the Soldotna/Kenai area, 6 from Homer, 2 from Seward, 2 from Texas, 2 from Michigan, 2 from Florida, and 1 from each of New Mexico, Arizona, Washington, North Carolina, and Oregon.



SSO JOAT at the BBQ grill. Photo by MitzieHeart

GeocacheAlaska! bought the burgers and hot dogs, which were cooked up by SSO JOAT on his BBQ. Attendees brought a wide variety of picnic side dishes. No one went away hungry.

At the end of the feast, we formed folks up into 6 teams and they each randomly

draw a team color, which put them into a pre-selected order to participate in the various competitive games. New this year, each team had to play a game to win coordinates to one of 15 daycaches hidden around the park. The caches included 14 small or micro caches and one puzzle cache. Each team was randomly given the coordinates to a cache as well as the puzzle to solve to get to the puzzle cache, which was a gadget cache that would give the solver the coordinates to the final cache.

To get coordinates for more caches, each team was allowed to select 3 members for the GPS Toss. They each had one chance to toss an old Garmin GPS 40 about 15 feet into an ammo can. Getting the GPS into the can won the team an additional cache location to start with. Next, we went around to each team and asked them random geocache trivia questions.



GPS Toss Game. Photo by MitzieHeart

Getting the correct answer won that team another cache.

With their starting cache cards in hand, the teams were set loose with one hour to find as many caches as possible. When a team found a cache, they had to look at the card inside and write a code word on their cache card. The team then sent a "runner" with the completed card back to the picnic area and if they had the code word right, they traded the complete card for a new cache card. The runners then had to run back to their group to continue hunting more caches.

Each correct cache find won the team points. The first team to find a cache and get the cache card back to the picnic table won 10 points for that cache. Each subsequent find on the same cache won that team one less point than the previous finder. So, finding caches quickly was important to winning the most points.

Recent Events



Geocache Trivia Challenge. Photo by MitzieHeart

Of course, the cache cards were separately shuffled for each team prior to starting, so it was random as to what caches each team might be hunting. The teams starting with more cards in hand were at an advantage.

The puzzle cache was worth 20 points for the first finder,

with only three teams solving it. The gadget cache was a box with three lights inside that illuminated 3 of many numbers on the front when the finder figured out how to make them light up. Around the sides of the box were various screws and bolts sticking out. Touching the right two at the same time completed an electrical circuit that illuminated the cache lights. The idea for this gadget cache came from WVTim who has published numerous videos on YouTube on how to build various gadget caches. You can see his video on the inspiration for this cache at <https://youtu.be/vN6ZXJK-q20>

The points were being tallied as the game played, so we had the winners figured out as soon as the game time was up. The Green team scored 134 points, the Orange team 128, the Yellow team 125, the Red team 71, and the Blue and Purple teams tied the red lantern position at 55 points each. Each member of the Green team was given a 15 Years of Geocaching micro geocoin as a prize, compliments of SSO JOAT.

It is a busy week of work to set this picnic up every year, but seeing dozens of people come in from all over the state to socialize and have a fun-filled day of power caching makes it all worthwhile. Thanks to GeocacheAlaska! for sponsoring this event every year. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again next year!



The Green Team wins the game! Photo by MitzieHeart



Happy Cachers group photo. Photo by MitzieHeart

Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

Caches on Private Property

By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer



This summer, several complaints about geocaches on private property were received. These three incidents have the following things in common: 1) The cache was placed on private property without permission OR the cache was placed close enough to private property to make local residents uncomfortable; 2) when approached, some cachers were less than cordial and understanding of the private land owners' feelings about the new activity brought to their neighborhood/property.



2. "There was a cache on the stop sign in my yard. I became aware through some cachers who stopped to search, and actually engaged me in a civil manner. Others were not so civil and chose to "educate" me on property law, right of way law, etc etc.

I have removed the cache, and have it in my possession. I will return it to you, or who ever would like it back. I removed it because neighbors asked me what was going on. "Cars pull up, people get out, look for something, replace something, and leave"

If you can step aside from your hobby for just a moment, and consider how you would feel if this was happening to you , your property, your neighborhood, you

may understand my concern.

I run a tight ship, I lead a no nonsense life. I surely do not need anything going on that looks like drug activity to my neighbors. Can you understand and consider that at all?"

3. "As a lifelong outdoors person and a GPS user, I support the idea of geocaching. However, I do not want geocachers hiking around in my back yard.

This evening about 7:50 I discovered three youths searching for a geocache within my yard. I do not know what organization placed this geocache, but I hope that they will avoid doing it in the future.

I live on a 1 3/4 acre property... There is no public property along ... Creek. The creek valley in our back yards may appear to be wilderness, but that is not true.

I hope that in the future, geocaching organizations will check the ownership status of areas where they are considering a geocache competition."

One of the concerned property owners escalated the matter by contacting law enforcement and seeking legal counsel even though the cache has been archived and removed. The matter has been referred to Groundspeak where the paid professionals will take over. Some land owners/managers take trespass on their property very seriously. All geocachers need to be mindful of this and be responsible with their cache placement and seeking.

Cachers are to place a geocache only with permission of the land owner. If you are uncertain about the land ownership, perform due diligence and determine the ownership using the available GIS databases, or don't place the cache. Past issues of the GeocacheAlaska! newsletters at <http://www.geocachealaska.org/newsletters.htm> contain articles about how to determine land ownership, so I won't go into the details here.

Ultimately, it is up to cachers to present a positive profile for caching. This means placing caches only with permission and being polite and truthful when approached by muggles, especially law enforcement officers. One bad interaction with a person can ripple far, sometimes with severe consequences such as banning of the game from certain jurisdictions which has happened in many locations "Outside."

Caching Travelogues

Caching in Ketchikan - Dude Mountain

By *Ericka Rud / akrud*



So I have lived in Ketchikan most of my life, but have only discovered Geocaching in the last few years. There are approximately 200 caches currently in Ketchikan. My family and I were out there caching away until... we ran out of them on flat ground (however nowhere in Ketchikan is truly flat). So we started taking up hiking. Let's face it, you work harder for some of those smileys, whether it is difficulty or terrain. So I thought I would show you my very favorite hike, Dude Mountain. A lot of locals don't even know about this gem. From North Tongass Hwy, the trail head is located approximately 6 miles up Revilla Road to

Brown Mountain Road. You will travel up Brown Mountain Road about 3 more miles. According to the Forest Service this hike is approximately 1.5 miles one way with an elevation gain of 1,500 ft and is rated Most Difficult. However we were able to get up in about 1 ½ Hours. Heck even the kids and miniature doxie made it... The trail consists of boardwalk, gravel trail and the final section follows a narrow ridge that is very steep and rugged. Currently there are 3 caches located on Dude Mountain, [GC5WMQ5](#) Dude Mountain Rest Stop, [GC5WMJA](#) Hold Tight & [GC4MWPX](#) Hey Dude! So, 3 smileys for just a little work and some great pictures.



Aksushigirl & alaskant-man in a small patch of snow. Ohhh it felt so good!



Wind deformed hemlock tree...



View from the top



The GeoDog, Sophie and the wildflowers

Caching Travelogues

Driving Seemingly Everywhere in Texas

By Michael Malvick / Ladybug Kids

After more than 10,300 Texas highway and byway miles driven during the past several years, I finished the [Texas County Challenge](#) on June 9, finding a cache in my 254th and final Texas County in Chambers County, which is east of Houston.

Business trips frequently take me to Texas and at first, I racked up just a few counties here and there as I sampled the area around Houston and drove to Louisiana to find some caches in my quest to find a cache in all fifty states plus the District of Columbia. Then I met Houston-area cachers Rich & Lola and Kirbydox, who became my ad-hoc local caching guides.

For one trip, they offered to meet me in San Antonio to see The Alamo and other local sites before driving me back to Houston. Our route back to Houston

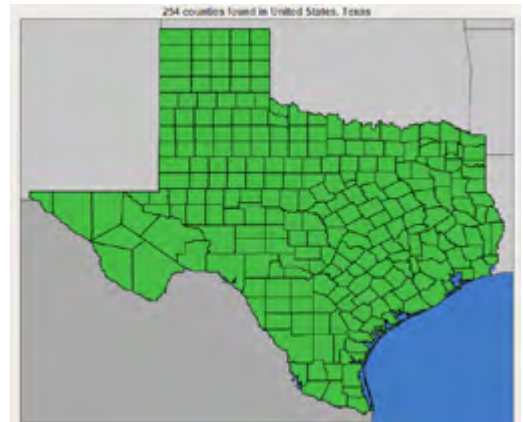


avoided the beeline I-10 route, instead meandering a bit, nicking the corners of some counties and running straight through the heart of others, while making certain to find at least one cache in each county along the way. This approach to route finding and caching piqued my interest and I looked up the [Texas County Challenge](#) page and created my [book-mark list](#) of counties I cached in. On a subsequent "county run" in West Texas which began and ended in El Paso, our foursome made it a point to find a cache in Van Horn, which is featured in Brian Burns' and Geoff Mack's Texas-style rendition of Johnny Cash's "I've Been



Everywhere." Finding a cache in Van Horn progressed me toward completing the requirement of the "[I've Been Everywhere – Texas](#)" Challenge to find a cache in (or as near as possible to) each of the ninety-one Texas communities mentioned in the song.

The intrigue of visiting each Texas County and the IBET Communities hooked me into pursuing completion of both Challenges and the [Texas Cemetery Challenge](#) which requires finding one hundred caches in Texas cemeteries. Each subsequent trip to Texas integrated open-jaw flights or additional flight segments that enabled me to cover new Texas territory and visit new communities. I eventually got to know well the Amarillo, Midland, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Hobby and George Bush Intercontinental airports.



What follows is a high-level list of the best of the best memories I take away from completing these epic Challenges. The complete list would go on for many pages, but hopefully this will whet others' adventure appetites to hit the open road.



Best Rental: Dodge Charger (driven for 1050 miles through 31 counties around Midland, Texas).

Wildest Weather: Outrunning the dust storms/dry thunderstorms in Jeff Davis County that blacked out the sky, being drenched and blown around for more than one hundred miles by the storm cell

Caching Travelogues



that blew through Childress and adjoining counties. Driving into the teeth of Tropical Storm Bill on the way back to Houston from the [logbook signing event](#).

Memorable animal encounters: The head-on charge of a wild hog and the very real threat of a Jeep Liberty-sized steer on a dirt road near Pontotoc, tortoise and box turtle rescues in numerous counties, and a horned lizard capture and release in Junction.

Memorable creepy crawly encounters: The Hobbit-like spider forest near [Round Lake](#) that brought me as close to my breaking point as any other previous arachnid encounter. I'd much rather take on the Alaskan mosquito hoards without DEET than experience that again.

Cooliest kitsch: Popeye (Crystal City), giant peanut (Floresville), Mr. Pilgrim (Harvard), Dr. Pepper (Dublin), Devil's Rope Museum (McLean), giant Sam Houston (Huntsville), the Mule in Mule City.

Cooliest repurposing: Battleship Texas (Baytown), Cobra helicopter (Port Lavaca), Harley Motorcycle (Bastrop), swarm of VW bugs (east of Amarillo).

Easy (bench)marks: So many old water towers and Courthouse spires!

Best Restrooms, Beef Jerky, and Texas-sized Beverage Refills (did I mention the rest rooms?): Buc-ee's

Best Dinner: BBQ at The County Line outside Austin after visiting the [Necropolis](#)

Best Vegetable Side: Sonic's Tater Tots

Best Cookies: Cherry Cookies at Collin Street Bakery, Corsicana

Best river gorges in a (mostly) dry state: Pecos River near Langtry in Judge Roy Bean Country, Rio Grande along the Mexico Border, and White River/Blanco Canyon (was a real surprise on Highway 82 east of Lubbock), Red River (sev-

eral locations).

Highest Concentration of Highly Favorited Caches: Dalhart

Most Extreme Day: Houston to Texarkana and back (>700 miles)

Most Counties Visited in a Day: 24

Communities and surroundings I most want to explore further due to visual, historic, or recreation opportunity appeal: Amarillo, Bastrop, Canadian, Glen Rose, Laredo, Luckenbach, McLean, Novasota, Smithville, Throckmorton



Best heckling: Stephenville (population ~18,000), upon presenting my Alaska Airlines credit card to a restaurant cashier being told, "Alaska?!? We kicked your state football champions' a\$\$!" Sad, but true, the home team Stephenville Yellow Jackets whupped the Anchorage South High Wolverines 43-0 on August 29, 2014. The Wolverines recovered to repeat as Alaska State Champions two months later.

Some Travel Statistics:

- Flights in/out of Amarillo: 0.5 (I had to drive from Amarillo to Tulsa after outbound flight cancelled), 800 miles driven, not counting drive to Tulsa
- Flights in/out of Midland: 1 (earned overnight stay from United Air after plane mechanical caused me to miss connection home), 1050 miles driven
- Flights in/out of El Paso: 1, 1000 miles driven
- Flights into San Antonio: 4 (open jaw, always ending in Houston courtesy of Rich & Lola and Kirbydox), 2500 miles driven
- Flights out of Austin: 1 (driven to Austin to visit the Necropolis by Rich & Lola and Kirbydox), 300 miles driven
- Flights into/out of Dallas: 3, 1900 miles driven
- Flights into/out of Houston: 5, specifically related to completing these challenges plus several other flights for local business, at least 2800 miles driven
- TOTAL APPROXIMATE MILES: 10,350*

*this total is most likely a few hundred miles short because I did not keep mileage records for my initial Texas caching prior to learning of and pursuing the Challenges.

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 a few ways you can join GeocacheAlaska! at the Sourdough level for \$20/year.

1. Navigate to the [GeocacheAlaska! webpage](#) and:
 - A. Click on the "Subscribe" button to set up an automatic subscription which will renew annually. Please enter your caching name in the provided box. OR
 - B. Click on "Add to Cart" to purchase an annual membership. OR
 - C. Download a membership form you can print and mail with your payment.
2. 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. Follow us on Instagram [@geocachealaska](#)
6. Follow us on Twitter [@GeocachAlaska](#)

Questions? E-mail to contact@geocachealaska.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK, Twitter, and Instagram!

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.



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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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