

Around The State



November 2015



Photo credit:

Cathy Wilmeth / The_Firefly
2014 Hobo CITO Trail River Camping Social
GCSBYAA



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- [biggriz meet & greet in Galena Alaska](#), November 3, 6pm, Galena
- [Beardo is back in the game BBQ!!!](#), November 4, 6pm, Anchorage
- [Caching on the Yukon in Galena](#), November 4, 6pm, Galena
- [Been nice visiting Galena. Good-bye](#), November 5, 6pm, Galena
- [GeocacheAlaska! Inc GIFF Weekend 2015](#), November 7, 11:30am, Anchorage
- [IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS](#), November 7, 3pm, Anchorage
- [CACCBAG'S FOLLY](#), November 10, 6pm, Anchorage
- [Bagel Brunch Bunch](#), November 11, 10:45am, Anchorage
- [11th Annual Geofest](#), December 18, 5:30pm, Anchorage

GeocacheAlaska! Updates

President's Corner

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



Our game is about getting outdoors to find and to hide caches. While we certainly spend a good amount of time with our computers planning the hunt (or the hide), the focal point of geocaching is to **get outdoors**.

The future of our game lies in the hands of a population of youth who (according to National Wildlife Federation's "[Why Connect Kids and Nature](#)" web-page) are spending an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes using entertainment media in a typical day. Outdoor time per day has fallen to half of what kids were enjoying twenty years ago, and is measured in mere minutes. These 8 to 18 year olds are investing so much time in watching screens that they've become unschooled in how to be outside; how to enjoy the out of doors; how to travel in the out of doors... and it's impacting their physical and mental health in a negative way.

As a geocacher, you can be an agent of change in this trend. Invite family, friends, and kids you know to 'get outdoors' and experience the fun that makes geocaching an important part of your life. During a recent conversation with fellow Sourdough Cacher Farmergang, we discussed how important the face to face invitation to participate is to those who've never tried something new. Be a leader in someone else's life by inviting them along for a geocaching adventure in the great outdoors. And – watch for more news about how GeocacheAlaska! Inc. will be teaming up with outdoor groups to boost the 'get outdoors' movement targeting Alaska's young people!

Editor's Notes

By Cathy Wilmeth / The_Firefly

All geocachers are invited to submit articles, photos, and ideas! The submission deadline for the next issue of *Around The State* is **November 20, 2015**. I'm happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have about submitting! Send to editor@geocachealaska.org

Top Tens: Caching Achievements of Alaskan Cachers

By Scott Aleckson / SSO JOAT

This month's Top Ten list is a revisit of the Alaskan Geocachers with the most Alaskan Cache Finds in One Month. Note that we have a tie at 5th and 6th place, but we also have three new names on the list when compared to a year ago. As with all our Top Ten lists, only Alaskan caches are counted here, so we are not counting your vacation caches outside.

- #1 [Polgera](#) = 267
- #2 [akwhodini](#) = 239
- #3 [Karma!](#) = 238
- #4 [jonnygeoseed](#) = 223
- #5 [Capra Hircus](#) = 218 (tie)
- #6 [capsheldon](#) = 218 (tie)
- #7 [AkJo19](#) = 216
- #8 [Tundra Tim](#) = 211
- #9 [cavyguy](#) = 207
- #10 [ThatAkDude](#) = 200

Look for another Top Ten list next month. In the mean time, you can search up all kinds of cacher and cache statistics on [Project-GC](#).

GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors Elections

Annual Board of Directors elections are now underway. Each current Sourdough member of GeocacheAlaska! is eligible to cast a vote on the electronic ballot. Every current member will receive an email with a direct link to their personal ballot on our Survey Monkey website. The survey link will allow each member to vote for just one ballot and cannot be shared with other members. If you have not received an email with your ballot link, please check your SPAM folder in your email account. If you still do not have a ballot, please contact the Treasurer for verification of your Sourdough membership status at treasurer@geocachealaska.org.

GeocacheAlaska! Updates

GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors Nominees

President – Wes Skinner (*NorthWes*)

I'm running for another term as President, with the intention to support the Board of Directors of Alaska's only statewide geocaching organization in meeting the organization's goals and objectives.



GeocacheAlaska! Inc. exists for three primary reasons: to build up positive relationships with land managers (opening public lands to use by geocachers), to educate both the public and geocachers alike about the game (how it's played, and refinements in style of play), as well as developing social interaction between interested cachers (through sponsored events and activities). While the past two years have seen some significant gains (such as a six-year permit for caching in Alaska State Parks), there's always improvement possible across the entire range of GeocacheAlaska! Inc's activities. My focus for the next two years will be on developing Sourdough Member involvement in committee activities and building interest in taking on the volunteer roles existing throughout the organization.

Geocaching offers an outstanding opportunity to help persons of all abilities 'get outdoors' and experience all the planet has to offer as a playing field. I'm looking forward to making GeocacheAlaska! Inc a local leader in that 'get outdoors' initiative.

Secretary – Patricia Fredieu (*AKLoisandClark*)

My name is Trish Fredieu better known as Lois of AK Lois and Clark. We started caching in 2010 and have been having a good time at it ever since. Our slogan is "We would rather be lost than found at home." Just like everyone says, caching takes me to places I might not ever see. It can make a drive from A to B much more interesting, educational and just plain fun.



We are casual cachers and really have fun doing it. I don't think I will ever snowshoe 6 miles to a cache but I really enjoy the many aspects of caching.

Earthcaches are a favorite. One of the good things about geocaching is that everyone can enjoy it. My mother is 89 years old and she has cached. Most of my friends, family and even employees have had to endure a cache moment. My favorite was when a friend said one day "Let's go get one of those things." The geopups love caching as I am sure most do.

I am running for Secretary because I have become involved in GeocacheAlaska and have enjoyed the challenges and rewards of this position. I have met so many nice people and love the camaraderie.

Thanks for taking the time to consider AK Lois for Secretary.

Webmaster – Scott Aleckson (*SSO JOAT*)

I have been working as Webmaster for GeocacheAlaska! Inc. on the Board of Directors for several years now. With a number of projects in the works, I would like to continue working for the organization in this capacity as I strive to bring several website, online store, and membership database projects through the final phases of their implementation. I have also been building the GeocacheAlaska! presence on a number of social media outlets to further our reach to the membership and geocachers in general. There is much more work to be done and I'm ready to volunteer for another term on the Board to see things continue to progress.



Member at Large (two will be elected)

Mike Farmer (*farmergang*)

(Mike was working an intensive schedule during the ballot development schedule and was unable to get a statement of interest to us in the short timeline before balloting. The following remarks are a distillation of the conversations members of the Nominating Committee had with Mike during their initial approach asking him to consider the position. Mike was appointed recently to fill out one of the open Member at Large positions through the end of 2015.)



I'm pleased to accept a nomination to be considered for election to a Member at Large position with GeocacheAlaska! Inc. This game lets me get my entire family involved in a 'get outdoors' lifestyle, and I look forward to helping others learn how to experience caching here in Alaska. While our media outreach across a broad spectrum reaches many with information, I'm convinced the best contact is done face to face at our wide variety of events. It's going to be fun to be part of an organization dedicated to making the entire planet its playground!

Louise Kempker (*freeweez*)

Fellow Cachers: My caching name is: freeweez – real name: Louise. I accepted an open position as a GeocacheAlaska! Board member this summer, and would like to nominate myself for Member at Large for this election.



I have been caching for 5 years, and have come to realize the dynamic impact this organization has! It takes many dedicated cachers many hours to make the connections with state/local/muni groups so that the geocaching game can continue in Alaska! From CITO's, to meet 'n greets, to flash-mobs, to festive gatherings –the cachers who work hard to bring these events need support!

For me- it is truly wonderful to discover new caches, new trails, new friends... it's all about geocaching! It would be an honor and pleasure to work towards future goals with GeocacheAlaska! And support the geocaching game across the state.

I would whole-heartedly be willing to help in any area that's needed. GeocacheAlaska! has some dedicated, amazing, talented, creative and fun-loving members---I look forward to working with everyone!

James (Jim) Wilkins (*Skymanak*)

(no photos were available at publication)

My name is James (Jim) Wilkins. I would be interested in running for a board seat. I am a 27 year flight attendant with Alaska Airlines and have been Geocaching for 7 years. I am pretty passionate about Geocaching and have introduced many many people to Geocaching.

Thank you for your consideration.

Know Before You Go (part 4) & Autumnal Reaping

By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer



A representative of Gold Cord Mine, Mountain Heather Investments LLC, contacted me and requested archival of a dozen geocaches that were on private land without permission in the Hatcher Pass area. An increase in active gold mining that includes surface blasting which creates a public safety hazard and geocachers' reluctance to leave the area even when warned about their trespass and imminent blasting prompted the request.

Land ownership information in Hatcher Pass and the entire Mat-Su Borough may be found [here](#). You will have to manually zoom close enough into the area of interest to see the parcel boundaries and select Measure, Location and pick Degrees or DMS. Coordinates will display when moving the cursor on the map and one can click a specific location on the map to "lock" the coordinates in the display window. Geocaching.com uses the DD MM.MMM coordinate format, so the user will need to convert between that format and the format used on the site (by dividing the seconds by sixty to obtain the ".MMM" part of the DD MM.MMM coordinate format or multiplying the ".MMM" part of the DD MM.MMM coordinate format by sixty to obtain the seconds). Additional property ownership information may be found on the Mat-Su Borough website [here](#) and [here](#).

Geocachers are reminded that the Guidelines require obtaining permission from the Land Owner before placing a geocache. All known Land Manager agreements and links to other Land Ownership resources are located on the GeocacheAlaska! Land Manager webpage at <http://www.geocachealaska.org/landmanagers.htm>.

I started the Autumnal "reaping" process on September 18. The process involved looking at caches that have been temporarily disabled for more than thirty days (91 caches) and caches with a growing string of "Didn't Find It" (DNF) logs (247 caches). I posted a Reviewer Note on each cache page requesting the Cache Owner to tend to the cache. If the cache does not receive Cache Owner maintenance OR the Cache Owner does not post a Note to the cache page stating their maintenance plan, the cache page will be archived during my next review cycle. The key for a Cache Owner to keep a cache with issues alive is to regularly communicate with the local Review and the caching community by posting notes on the cache page. No one likes to see a cache get archived,

Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

but an even worse situation is for a missing cache to live on, frustrating cache seekers.

I also posted a note to 185 cache pages with the Needs Maintenance attribute with instruction about how to clear the attribute from the cache page if everything is all right with the cache. I will not take further action on these caches unless there are other issues such as a long-term “temporarily disabled” or growing DNF streak. The number of caches with this attribute has grown significantly because so many cachers are using the “Needs Maintenance” log instead of the “Didn’t Find It” (DNF) log when they didn’t find the cache. Cachers are reminded that the “Needs Maintenance” log should be used only if the cache is found and there are known maintenance issues. If the cache IS **NOT** found, the appropriate log is the “Didn’t Find It” (DNF) log type. A cacher can’t know if a cache needs maintenance if s/he hasn’t actually seen the cache.

What’s in Your Geocaching Bag?

By Ericka Rud / akrud

As an avid geocacher I take my geocaching very seriously, okay maybe not that seriously, but I do take my equipment seriously. I am a gadgetaholic! I have found it very interesting talking to people from other areas of the country about what each of us considers “essential” equipment. So what are my “essentials” You ask? My essentials have all happened due to various “things” that have happened to me while out geocaching. Sometimes these essentials are better known as Tools Of The Trade or TOTT. I have a small bag that I can grab, leave in my purse or toss in my pocket. In it is the handy and very necessary pair of **disposable gloves**. We Alaskan’s put our hands in holes, cracks and crevices. I am not touching anything slimy, sticky or furry.

Next is the **log roller**. My husband is the king of nanos in the woods, which can drive a person insane. I never leave home without my log roller. It is not much fun to spend a lot of time manually rolling one of those suckers up and trying to get it back in the lid before putting the cache back into place. Inevitably you have spent quite a while already LOOKING for said cache...

Speaking of nano’s, it’s always good to have a pair of **tweezers** available for pulling that teeny tiny log out of the cache. I have found the sharper the better. I have to admit to it taking me awhile to get these in my bag. A lot of time has been

spent trying to bang the log out of the cache with little or no success.

After the log roller and tweezers would be the **writing implement**. Whether you are looking for the nano or the ammo can you have a good chance that the writing implement in the cache, provided there is one in there, won’t work or the log will be damp. I try to carry a fine sharpie and a pencil to be sure I have my bases covered. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to sign the log with a stick and blueberry juice.

You will also want to make sure you have some sort of **flashlight**. I have found it doesn’t matter if it is day or night the flashlight is great in the woods to point in that hole, crack or crevice BEFORE I stick my hand into it, right along with the stick you picked up off the ground to poke in that hole. You can never be too safe.

In an effort to carry a few less gadgets, I use my smart phone to take my geocaching photos, but you may want to carry a separate **camera**. I take pictures of the trail, views along the trail, signs, the geopets, geofriends and sometimes a cool cache container. Make sure to get a wide variety of photos that you will be able to submit several photos for the calendar contest. It’s the best feeling to have your photo picked to be in a calendar and Alaska has so many aspects to share.

I always carry my **smart phone** and **GPS**. Make sure to toss in **spare batteries** for both your flashlight and your GPS. There is nothing more frustrating than getting within 500 feet of the cache and having your batteries die. However that is where the phone can come in. If for some reason you don’t have spare batteries, the phone app will work to get you close enough to find that cache.

Then of course you are going to need some **swag**. There are lots of other items that people bring geocaching and whether you are caching in the city, on a trail, at night or up a mountain can make a big difference to the “other” equipment you might want to use. Some other ideas might be: a **magnet**, a **retractable mirror**, a **grabber** (CITO), **headlamp** and a **UV light**. There are many more ideas out there about what the essential gear might be.

Of course many times this “small” bag gets thrown into a larger one with more tools. ‘Be prepared’ is an Alaskan Motto.

Caching Travelogues

Knik River Caching Adventure

By Trish Fredieu / AKLoisandClark

Our adventure began as an afternoon drive north with no real direction or distance. We took the Old Glenn Highway toward Palmer. We stopped at the Eklutna Tailrace along the way and after consulting the geo app we decided to go after the BP and Tan caches in the Butte. The cell service is hit and miss but I managed to get a list saved for off line use. We have been East of the bridge towards Jim Creek but never West. The water was really low and we had no problems navigating the Xtera around and around, up and down. It was a great day and we got 19 of the BP and Tan series and a couple others. We were feeling really good about our finds which was a new daily record for us and thought we only had 4 of the series left to get. Remember, I did save that list in an area with limited cell service. It was getting late so we figured we would come back later since we always like a reason to come back. Once I got back home and started to log the caches I realized there were many more in the series. DUH!!! No worries Clark said, we will go back tomorrow and finish them off.

Our second day started about the same, up and down, around and around and even a few trips up some trails. We had the last six to go with plenty of time before dark so we headed down river to grab the last few. Everything was going just as planned and then it happened. Clark misjudged an area of sand by about 20 feet and we sank. We sank deep. The sand was hitting the foot rails and we were buried. It was getting late, there was not a soul around and we had limited cell service. Now what? We have a GPS, how far is it to the road? 3 miles or so. Clark has a buddy with a big F350. We had to pull him out up river a couple of times. Cool. Call Lance. Unfortunately Lance has a broken down big F350 and his wife drives a Kia. Now what? We built a fire on the river and tried to figure this out. A friend of ours keeps his Yukon at the house for the winter, so Lance came in from Eagle River, grabbed the Yukon with the tow strap and came out to us. The good news was that while we waited the geopups got to run, we had a bite to eat and enjoyed a fire. We even saw 2 moose down river hanging out. There was concern about the Yukon since it does not have great tires but she did it. A couple of yanks and out we came. Our river adventure came to an end at 12:15am. This area is a great place to come and play. I think we have buried a vehicle every time we have been back there. Last summer Clark buried his Pathfinder up to the doors and Lance's truck fell through the ice last fall. Four wheelers are on our Christmas list. Adventure awaits. This is Alaska.

East Coast Trip

By Bill Van Couwenberghe / AlaskaVans

I had a conference to go to in the Outer Banks in North Carolina the first week of August. So after some discussion, Momma Van (Beth) and I decided to make it our summer vacation. We would leave about a week earlier and visit Williamsburg, VA; Washington, D.C.; and Philadelphia, PA before heading to the Outer Banks. We picked those cities because of the history in each of them. I left the travel arrangements to Beth. She planned the routes we would be taking and researched which caches would be the easiest to get. Since it was our family vacation, we did most of our caching on the drives between cities. The rest of the time we were tourists and wanted to act the part. However, if the opportunity presented itself, we would find some caches.

The idea was a good one. The timing wasn't the best in terms of the weather. Boy was it HOT and HUMID while we were there!! I swear it was a race between the heat and the humidity to see which could break 90 first.

We left Anchorage on a Thursday and arrived in Norfolk, VA Friday morning. After a short drive we were in Williamsburg. We were all really tired, so we decided not to do much. We found a nice restaurant and had something to eat to kill time before we could check into the hotel.

The next day, we went out to check out Williamsburg. While shopping for souvenirs, a clerk at one of the stores told us about a Saturday market to check out in the old part of town. So we went to check it out. While we were walking about the market, Beth asked me about any caches nearby. I pulled out the iPhone and opened the Geocaching



Caching Travelogues



App. Up pops [GC1928](#) - #3 on DOG, a virtual cache right in front of where we were standing. Thomas Jefferson was very cooperative to pose for a picture with the kids.

Washington, D.C. was a lot of walking. We were there for 2 full days. The first day was spent going through the Smithsonian museums of Natural History, National Gallery of Art and Air and Space. The second day started with a tour of the White House and checking out the National Monuments (Vietnam, Lincoln, Korea and World War II). All of these are within the National Mall, which is part of the National Park Service. That means that there are no traditional caches to be found. Only those of the virtual nature. We were surprised to see how many Earth caches there were. Several of the monuments and the Museum of Natural History had them.

Due to how much time we had, the only Earth cache that I did was the one that was around the National Museum of the American Indian, [GC39QV8](#), *North, South, East and West of the Moon*. The EC visits all four stone Cardinal Direction Markers placed there. It was very interesting learning about the stones and the geology surrounding them. After completing the requirements for the EC, I spotted a multi cache nearby that started in front of the Air and Space Museum, [GC908D](#), *Solar Sailing*. It was a planet walk. The same planet



walk that the one here in Anchorage was modeled after. This one was only 0.3 miles in length and had 6 stops, all virtual. So I did it. Again, there was something to learn. And it could be done while looking like any other tourist.

In Philadelphia, there weren't very many caches around the Liberty Bell or Independence Hall. But as we were walking about, Anthony, Annemarie and I all were conscripted into the Continental Army. We could not locate the spot that we were to meet the next morning at 5:00 am to begin our tour of duty. So we did not report. So far, no one has come after us. We also found the Rocky statue.

The highlight of our stay in the Outer Banks was going to Kitty Hawk, where [GCB57D](#), *Dawn of Aviation* is located. The spot where the first motorized flights by the Wright Brothers happened. While we were there, we stopped in the Ranger Station and listened to the Ranger talk about the first flights. In the Station is replica of the plane that they flew. The replica was built for the 100th anniversary of their flight. The Ranger said that the original plane cost about \$731 to build. The replica cost \$1.2 million. Talk about inflation!



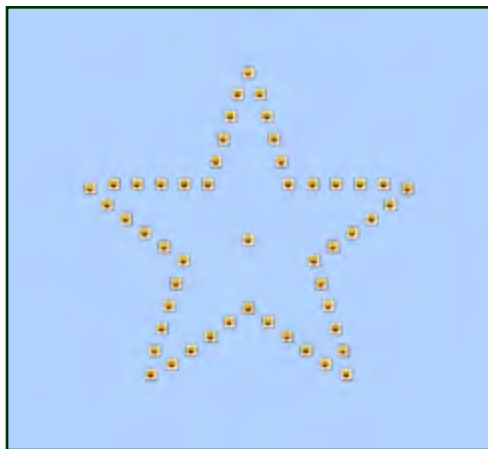
By the time our trip was over, we had found 108 caches over 15 days. We had found 6 different types (traditional, multi, virtual, mystery, web-cam and earth caches) in six states (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina) plus the District of Columbia.

Caching Travelogues

The Alaska State Star----Caching Style!

By Louise Kempker / freeweez

Do all geocachers know about the Alaska State Star Caches?



All 51 'stars' are actually geo-puzzles – so when viewed on the Geocaching.com screen – they look like question-marks in the shape of a star.....in the middle of Turnagain Arm! The middle star is: [GC4Y33G](#), and is a Tracking Bug Hotel.

When looking at the Cache Page of each star, it will look very similar- with patriotic red, white and blue colors surrounding the text- which is also in red, white and blue and has a US Flag and Alaska Flag waving! Each cache page is a sight to behold in it-

self! Very nicely done cache pages – take a look at them!

Now—how does one go about getting all 51 caches? Well----it takes time, and patience, and puzzle-solving techniques! And---talking to other cachers! The caches themselves (once solved) are all located on the Bird-to-Gird bike path.

(Am I giving too much away?)

The Bird to Gird Pathway parallels State Route 1 along the Turnagain Arm of an inlet off the Gulf of Alaska. The paved path runs for 13 miles between shore and glacier-covered mountains. You're likely to see wildlife along the way, including beluga whales and other sea mammals in the inlet and big game on dry land, such as Dall sheep.

Dramatic views of the water and mountains led to the designation of the Seward Scenic Highway; part of the trail uses the old road, which was rerouted, and part of the trail occupies an old rail bed. Along the trail you'll find interpretive signs of the interesting geologic features, and the path leads to other local trails in Gird-

wood, Bird and Indian. There's a campground in Bird and covered rest areas with picnic tables along the route.

Many of the cache puzzles will have to be solved while on the bike path as knowledge will be gained (reading the well-placed Interpretive Signs) as each puzzle is completed and cache is found!

It took this cacher 3 times on the trail (twice with bikes and once walking) to locate all the caches and sign the logs. That did not count for the time spent on solving each puzzle cache! It's best done with friends---thank you to my friends who initiated and helped and accompanied me on this quest!

This USA 50 State Star GeoArt is a great addition for the caching community! Consider giving it a try! By the way---if you admire these 51 STAR caches—you can give a thanks to Alaska's own [AKGH519!](#)

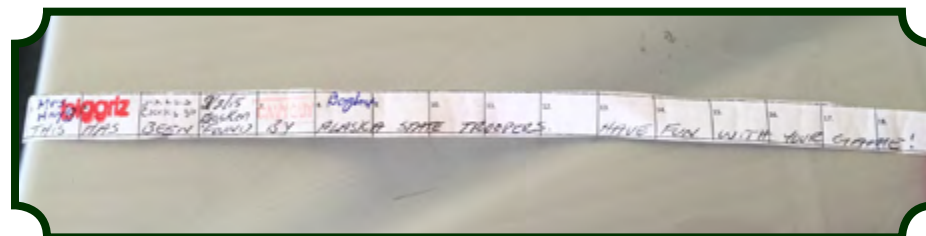
Note: The Bird-To-Gird Bike Trail Alaska comes with its own set of RISKS including avalanches, bear and moose. Note the seasonal access attribute. The area of the star is seasonally closed for avalanches. Should you find signage stating the trail is closed, do not ignore it. This trail may also be closed in winter.

“Have fun with your game!”

By Dogliest Cache

The cache is “The Taj Mahawker” ([GC62C7Y](#)) in downtown Anchorage very near where the President had meetings in September this year. After the President left, the log was found with this written on it:

“This has been found by Alaska State Troopers. Have fun with your game!”



Recent Events

Golden Ammo Can Award Ceremony

By Louise Kempker / freeweez

The awards are presented by C.A.C.H.E – Celebrate Alaskan Caching Hallmark Experiences.

This effort is spear-headed by Blazingpathways and Mrs Cohofive.

Blazingpathways introduced each awardee by describing their caching accomplishments and letting the guests guess which cacher fit the description!

Many AHH's were heard as the cacher name was announced!

For more details on the event, go to: [GC62BD8](#). In the logs for the event-hyfolks26 has more great pictures!

**1959 State of Mind
(1959+ finds)**

- ak4me
- capsheildon
- dmz1stone
- DR-AK
- FlightRiskAK
- ftl-ak
- hockeychicks
- kn67rph
- Malcore
- MissPollyPrissyPants
- ONESPIRIT555
- questing
- tex_ak

PREVIOUS HONOREES

- abe-simpson
- akgh519
- burndora
- burtonsinak
- Capra Hircus
- coloreido
- davidaknz
- fuzzybelly
- glenn.fish
- NorthWes
- omonra
- polgera
- shotgunsgm
- stoweak
- was@llan



Most of the honorees at this years Golden Ammo Can Award ceremony!

**Climbing to
4900 feet
(4900+ finds)**

- blazingpathways
- southeastaska

PREVIOUS HONOREES

- Karmal
- Ladybug Kids
- Meljo
- tomanoble

**Race A Century
(100+ hides)**

- Akgh519
- Alaskan Bev
- blazingpathways
- jackcet14
- N'oreasters

PREVIOUS HONOREES

- cavyguy
- Karmal
- Ladybug Kids
- NorthWes
- scobey
- tomanoble

**The 49'ers
(49 – 99 hides)**

- akwrench
- Cohofive
- Davidaknz
- FlightRisk
- ftl-ak
- lllgray
- MTboy
- Never Summer
- questing
- SSO JOAT
- Team Meister

**Flying at 10,000 feet
(10,000+ finds)**

- Karmal

PREVIOUS HONOREES

- cavyguy
- lllgray

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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

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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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