

# Around The State



May 2016

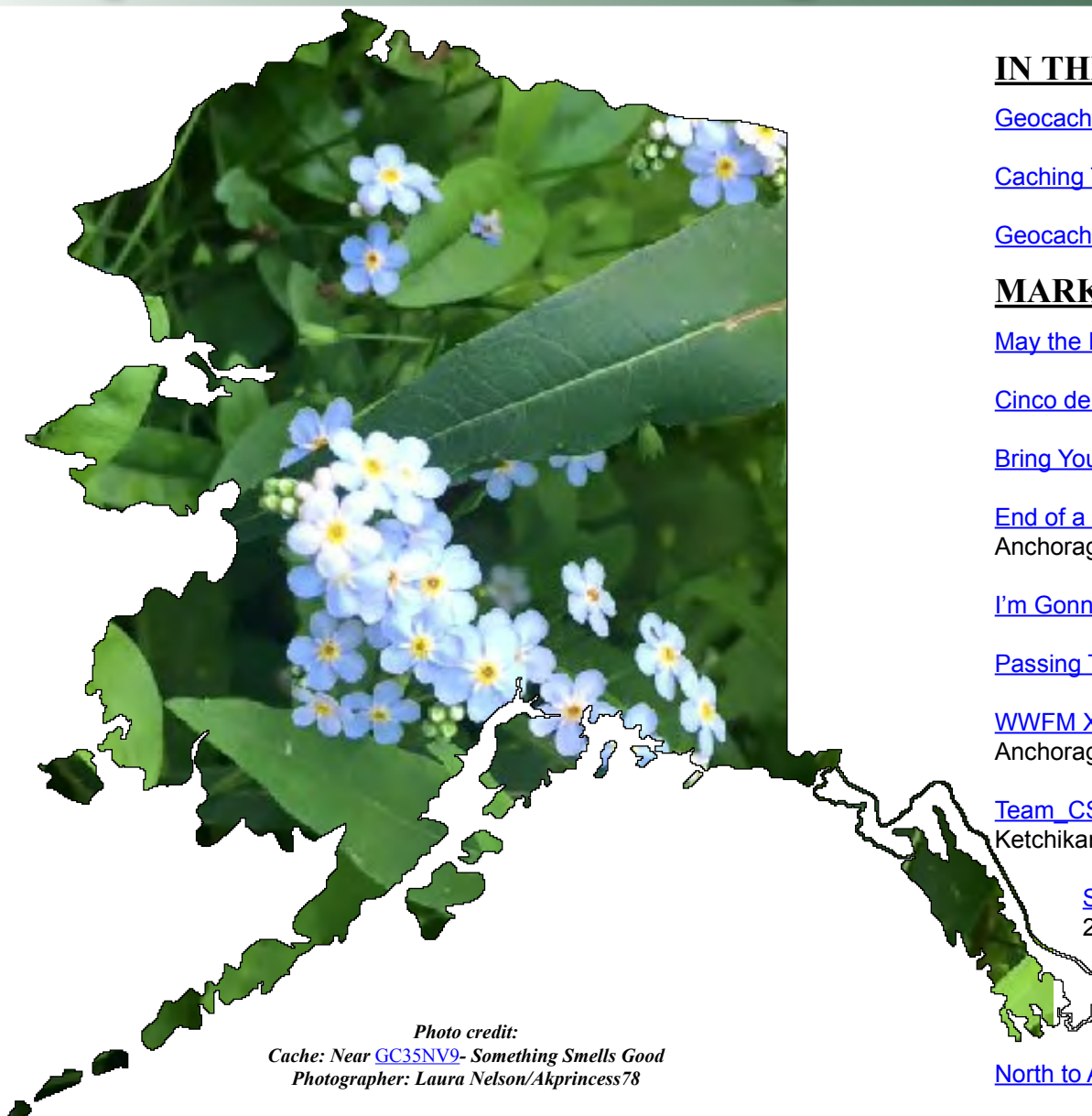


Photo credit:

Cache: Near [GC35NV9- Something Smells Good](#)  
Photographer: Laura Nelson/Akprincess78

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

[May the Fourth Be With You! 5/4/16](#), May 4, 6pm, Anchorage

[Cinco de MMMMayo!!](#), May 5, 6:30pm, Anchorage

[Bring Your Mom!!](#), May 8, 2pm, Eagle River

[End of a Streak - 2 Years 2 Days - Stammtisch](#), May 13, 5:30pm, Anchorage

[I'm Gonna Touch the Butte](#), May 21, Noon, Palmer

[Passing Thru Juneau Meet & Greet](#), May 24, 9am, Juneau

[WWFM XIII - Anchorage AK - Town Square Flash Mob!](#), June 4, 9am, Anchorage

[Team CSG is in Ketchikan. Stop by for some coffee](#), June 23, 8am, Ketchikan

[Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop Camping Kick-Off 2.0!](#), July 15, 2pm, Portage

[Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop Camping 2.0 - Day 2](#), July 16, 2pm, Portage

[North to Alaska \(From Ohio\)](#), July 28, 7:30am, Skagway

# GeocacheAlaska! Updates

## President's Corner

By Wes Skinner / NorthWes



### Photographs, Communication, and GeocacheAlaska!

One of the hottest topics in marketing and communication today is about social media (such as Facebook / Instagram / Twitter etc) and its use for business purposes. Here at GeocacheAlaska! we use email, our forum and our newsletter to communicate internally with members about upcoming activities and opportunities, and to share news about past activities. Social media has brought us free visual channels for engaging the public, businesses, and land managers with messages about who we are, what our members have been doing, and what the game of geocaching provides its players. In recent weeks our Instagram features about CITO alone have brought repeat posts and congratulations from land managers (including Anchorage Parks and Recreation) and employers of members for the very visual presentation about how geocachers practice the Cache-in Trash-Out ethic on a community-wide scale. They also served to reopen a conversation with Chugach State Park about adopting trailheads and having a larger acknowledged public presence as a user group on state park lands. These public relations successes come at a very low cost – a photograph taken ‘in the moment’ as folks geocache. Anchorage Parks and Rec especially appreciated our posts, as they helped set the stage in advance for the city-wide cleanup day, and showed a user-group in ‘give-back’ action at several well-known city parks.

The Geocaching app for smartphones offers an immediate one-click upload option for a photo as a cache is logged. I urge you to upload a photo for every cache you find – show off something unique about the area, the view, or the cacher(s) who sought the smiley. Let’s say ‘thank you’ for the cache we find by posting photos with our log that show the cache owner and future visitors what we found worthy about the cache’s location. Take that photograph one step further by posting it to Instagram (my personal favorite, as it’s mostly free of the rhetoric seen on other social media sites). On a recent 3-hour Saturday caching jaunt with my grandsons, we found 8 caches. Those 8 finds resulted in 24 photographs, 10 of which were used on cache logs alone. Later in the day we chose three photos for posting to Instagram, to show off to relatives how we’d spent the day, brag on our finds, celebrate the American Flag, and enter the TINCUP travel bug in its online contest. Of those 3 photographs, within

24 hours of posting there were 47 ‘likes’ and a handful of comments. Cachers from as far away as Berlin and Japan engaged in looking at how we’d cached Alaska. A multitude of local cachers saw how we’d spent the day, and a handful of persons interested in items such as the fish hatchery and the Gov’t Hill F-4 Phantom II gate guard airplane were delighted to tell us how they liked our photos. For a little effort involving three photos taken during a 3-hour caching jaunt, the geocaching story as it happened to the three of us here in Anchorage were interesting enough to get ‘liked’ 47 times... and that was just the first 24 hours!

Why does this matter? When we advocate with land managers about geocaching, positive photographic evidence of how geocachers are an unusually responsible user group makes our task so much easier when we ask for permission to play. Other user groups and nonprofits become interested in seeing ways to help build exposure to their messages and missions by involving the ‘active’ geocaching community. Fellow geocachers get positive feedback on their efforts to provide caches for others to find. Perhaps best of all, our photos on social media are a way to invite others to join in playing the game we enjoy most – geocaching. Photographs build positive impressions and great memories – add them to your logging toolset now!

## Editor's Note

By Cathy Wilmeth / *The\_Firefly*

Ahoy there! Your monthly newsletter needs you! All geocachers are both **encouraged and welcomed** to submit articles, photos, and ideas. Have you found a great cache lately? Have a DNF story to share? Want to suggest an event? Send your thoughts this way!

Feedback is also encouraged. Did you love something this issue? Is there something you’d like to see? Would you prefer not to see a particular newsletter feature? Let us know! I can’t make it better if I don’t know what you - the members - want!

The submission deadline for the next issue of *Around The State* is **MAY 20, 2016**. I’m happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have about submitting! Send to [editor@geocachealaska.org](mailto:editor@geocachealaska.org)

# GeocacheAlaska! Updates

## New Monthly Giveaway for paid Sourdough Members

By: Sean Gaither / FTL-AK

So the GeocacheAlaska! Board voted to increase member support, and we will have a monthly giveaway for all paid members of GeocacheAlaska! Why are we doing this? We are doing this to provide some added value to your membership.

Rules:

1. Only paid GeocacheAlaska! Members are allowed to participate. I have that list and will look at it monthly so no need to do anything except keep your membership current!
2. You can only win 1 time per Calendar Year Jan-Dec per name – sorry, family accounts with 5 users you only pay for one membership so you will only have one name in the drawing.
3. If you became a paid member in any month you are immediately available to be in that month's drawing.
4. All prizes are selected by the board and are not available to be changed or traded for something else. If you don't like your free prize you are more than welcome to place it in a Geocache for a FTF prize! Or I can give you my home address...
5. All prizes will be shipped or hand delivered to our members. This will be paid for by us and not you. Please make sure we have the most up to date info when you renew your membership.
6. If available, a picture of the winner with the prize will be posted in the newsletter. If I can't get a photo of me handing you the item I will make sure to provide a photo of the item so everyone can see what amazing item or items you got!

Now to the good stuff - I will be providing a list of who won on the newsletter for the year so everyone can see. Will it be you?

March Winner: Meljo is the proud winner of a Limited edition Dutch Windmill Trackable. (Two



May Winner: Polgera is the proud winner of a 15 year Road Trip Crew coin!

are Still Available in the GeocacheAlaska! Store.)

April Winner: Braveladd is the proud winner of a 15 Year Spinner Geocaching Coin.

## GeocacheAlaska! Store

By: Sean Gaither / FTL-AK

Did you know that GeocacheAlaska! has a store that is brought to many events across the state. I hope so - if not I might be fired!

What's in the store? Well, we have partnered with [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) and other geocaching vendors to provide you with the cool new coins or geocache containers.

Have you ever seen something online that you wanted to order? We have access to order all the items seen on [Geocaching.com](http://Geocaching.com) and can even provide special orders sometimes.

FTL-AK just special ordered this item:

Leatherman® SIGNAL™ Multi Tool (Not to be confused with Signal the Frog®) TB Code : TTVJW5. It's the best \$99.99 he has spent in a long time.

Why did he order it through GeocacheAlaska!? Well, he knew any profit they received would go back to its members. Also, he likes buying TOTT things!



If you would like something please let us know at an event or message FTL-AK directly. We do have an order limit so if your order is under that we might have to wait until we have reached it. If you don't mind waiting please just let us know.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us by purchasing items through the store. We enjoy making you happy and taking your money (to help build up GeocacheAlaska!, of course!)

## John Emery / akwhodini

January 10, 1963 – March 29, 2016



John Emery, aka [akwhodini](#), passed away on March 29, 2016, in Anchorage, Alaska. John was one of the early pioneers of geocaching in Alaska having entered the game in 2003. He had eighteen cache hides, the most popular of which is one of the last remaining virtual caches in Alaska, [Chocolate Waterfall](#).

Many of his other hides, such as [Skeeters Cache](#) and [Spud Cache](#), were the precursors to the evil micros that are so prevalent today. John was also instrumental in obtaining the first Chugach State Park geocaching permit.



## June is Get Outdoors Month

Every geocacher has experienced the magic of the great outdoors - diving into a cold alpine lake at the end of an arduous hike or watching the sun disappear over the horizon from a hidden beach. Now it's time to help others discover that magic.

This June, [Geocaching.com](#) and [GeocacheAlaska!](#) are joining [organizations across the country](#) in celebrating Get Outdoors Month. You're invited to join us! Here's how:

- **Earn the Get Outdoors Day souvenir** by finding any geocache in the United States on Saturday, June 11. For more information, visit the [Geocaching Blog!](#)
- **Celebrate the National Park Service's second century** by exploring the "[Find Your Park](#)" GeoTour.
- **Share your Get Outdoors Month experiences** on social media using #geocaching #GetOutdoors #geocachealaska.

## GPS & Phone Firmware Updates

By Sean Gaither / [ftl-ak](#)

Did you know most GPS units have firmware updates? It happens 4 times a year on some units, just like your cell phone gets updates to know what towers it's connected to. Why is it important to do updates? Well, imagine if you stopped doing oil changes on your car, yes it will still run just not as well or efficient. I am not saying your GPS will break down and not work if you don't do updates, but they'll help it run better.

When your cell phone service provider sends out a network update, it's to help improve your service. I understand that people think it doesn't always do this. The update that is sent out does a few things that can include but are not limited to:

- Providing the most up to date information on location of towers: this will tell you phone that new towers are up or old towers are gone. This helps your phone work smarter and not harder.
- Software updates: improve anything that can make your phone work better.
- Fix bugs: Fix issues that some or many users have on the device.

This is just a small sample of what is done. GPS Firmware updates can provide the same thing. I have found on my Garmins (yes I own two, crazy yes I think so) that once I have done the updates my accuracy has improved and they run better. Also I have seen the maps get improvement where I am actually on the trail and not in the road or feet off to one side or another.

As well, when you get to a new area via plane or car it's a great idea if you have a clear view of the sky to calibrate your compass. This can be done on most GPS units from the compass screen or on your phone as well. Again this is not required but can provide a better experience for the user.

I highly recommend connecting your device to your computer and seeing if updates are available on the manufacturer's website. If you have any questions or run into problems please utilize the manufacturer's tech support because they know the device better than I would. I am available to answer any questions but again I am not a trained professional. I am just a highly paid actor and part-time Geocacher.



# Caching Tricks, Tips, and Tools

## Reviewer's Corner

By Michael Malvick / Greatland Reviewer



### May Miscellany

As discussed in a past column, cachers may “reserve” a cache location by submitting a cache page with a Reviewer Note that request something along the lines of “do not publish, location check only.” I reply by disabling the cache with a Reviewer Note stating whether or not the location meets the Guidelines. If the cache meets the Guidelines, the draft cache page “holds” or reserves the spot for the submitting cacher and allows me to inform other cachers who subsequently place a cache nearby that there is a work in progress which prevents their cache from being published.

The Groundspeak Help Center article about [Unpublished Caches](#) states “Geocache listings should be submitted for review within three months of creation.” As such, cache page submissions for a location are valid for up to three months. However, as cachers try to shoehorn more and more caches into cache saturated areas, I recommend that cachers who have reserved a location place their cache as soon as possible. Doing so reduces my volunteer work load of having to turn away new cache submissions and also reduces the frustration of other cache hidiers who have no way of knowing there is a work in progress.

On another topic, some cachers request their caches to be published at a specific date and time. While I do my best to honor the majority of those requests, I do ask that cachers consider whether that date and time is really that important or appropriate. An appropriate reason to request a specific date and time may be coincidence with an event or special occasion. An inappropriate reason is to attempt to affect the first to find race or wake a bunch of folks up in the middle of the night or otherwise virtually poke one's finger in someone's eye. I don't want to be the middleman for these or other nefarious reasons for specific cache publishing times.

Sometimes it is necessary to update the coordinates for one of your caches. For cache moves of less than 528 feet/0.1 mile, you can change the coordinates yourself using the “Update Coordinates” log type after you have opened your cache page. I can administratively update the coordinates for distances greater

than 528 feet/0.1 mile, but before you ask me to do that, ask yourself if the hide location and style are different enough that a new cache page is warranted. If the answer is “yes,” the best next steps are to archive the old cache and to submit a new cache page. Cachers can reduce the number of coordinate updates for new caches by checking the wide variety of maps available during the cache submission process and on the cache page to verify the cache is shown on the map where it should be. I have had several experiences when the description/driving directions do not match where the cache appears on the map and I have been able to ask the cacher to confirm their coordinates. On the other hand, if the cache page has little information on it and the cache location maps at a “reasonable” location, I will publish it and let FTF hounds determine whether the coordinates are good.

Occasionally, cachers will notice that an event was published fewer than fourteen days before the event date. The [Event Cache](#) Guidelines state “events must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event date.” The operative word is “submitted.” It may take a few days for me to work out the final details of the event with the Event Host or I may be traveling and not visit the Review Queue for a few days or something else could have delayed publishing. Reviewers also have the latitude to publish events inside the fourteen day period specified by the Guidelines at their discretion and if the Event Host doesn't get into the habit of submitting events late. This is similar to the latitude that is *very* occasionally shown for coordinates of a new cache being *slightly* less than the 528' from a pre-existing cache or physical stage of a multi-cache or puzzle/mystery cache. Sometimes the GPS's estimated proximity error (EPE) can lead to a proximity conflict which is why I recommend power trail creators space their caches at least 600'.

Finally, now that the snow has melted from the lower elevations and trash is beginning to blow around, cachers are encouraged to host CITO Events to clean up their favorite public area. CITO Events are almost as easy to host as regular Events, but the posted duration must be at least sixty minutes as opposed to thirty minutes for other Event types.

# Caching Travelogues

## Geocachers are Nice People

*By Tina Westfall / Adventurphal*

Bearmaul and I (Adventurphal) started to really get into geocaching about a year ago. I found myself quickly becoming obsessed. This was when the series of souvenirs had started and I absolutely NEEDED all of them! As I'm sure most of you know, one of those souvenirs you earned after attending an event. Bearmaul was skeptical, why do people meet up and talk about ammo cans in the woods? Crazy people, that's who. Forgive us, we had a lot to learn. Deep down, I had similar concerns. You see, throughout our lives interaction with people had mostly taught us we would end up hurt or used in some way, dramatic or not. From strangers, family, or friends, and it had caused us to become rather cynical. Nonetheless, I had been working hard on breaking out of the comfort blanket of my social anxiety and I decided we were going. We attended [GC5TXM0](#), which just happened to be a big deal, as a lackey was in town. We were a little nervous; we almost turned around but at that second Bearmaul noticed his manager from an old job: FTL-AK. He was, and always is, very inviting to new cachers. As a stranger crashing a party full of people who know each other, it's comforting to know someone yourself.

So we went and you know what? We had a nice time. People around our table chatted with us, and I was surprised at how underwhelmed I felt. We decided we would attend [GC5XCP1](#). We were learning quickly, because once we spotted the group of people huddled around a tree, we knew exactly where we were going for this event. They seemed a little surprised to see some newbies but didn't exclude us and that felt new to us. Everyone started chatting a bit waiting on the event host to arrive, and that's when someone asked us how many finds we have. Uh oh, well....we had maybe 3 at that point, sorry to disappoint. What surprised me next is: no one cared. They weren't being competitive, they just wanted to chat about some cool caches to find and upcoming events we should attend. I think this is the same event we first met AKGH519.

Have you met this guy? What a swell guy. He was immediately enthusiastic about telling us where some cool finds were and about the different types. Honestly, he's always willing to talk to newcomers and get them excited about local caching. He then walked us through a multi: [GC5J7MP](#). We went as a group, I was a little confused at first but no one made me feel bad for that. I was really excited to have logged my first multi. We then went around the park strip

finding caches in the area as a group and just chatting. It was great and all so new to me. I'm never so comfortable around people I don't know. Everyone, different personalities from different walks of life, no one cared what you did we were just out to have fun and hang out. Mental health requires this kind of carefree interaction and up until then, it seemed out of reach.

Since then, we have logged 40 events. 40 geocaching events in a year! In that time, we have met so many amazing fellow cachers. If I named all the great people and I appreciate them, this article would become a book! Before every event I look forward to Freeweez's hug and her smile, which always brightens the toughest of days. Jackcat's contagious laugh as he schemes his next hide. NorthWes loves to talk geology with me and I've enjoyed every minute of it. (BTW if anyone needs tips or hints on Earthcaches, I'm your woman!) Have you met Akerdoc? If you've been to the ER because of a caching accident, then you may have. Someone's always willing to invite you out on a hike or to grab some thai food. I finally feel like I've made some real friends (sriracha anyone??). Everyone remembers your face and runs up to say hi and see what kind of shenanigans you've been getting yourself into. 40 EVENTS!!! And I can't think of a single time where I felt uncomfortable or unsafe. For me, that's almost unheard of.

This leads me into a couple of weeks ago. We had been tipped off that the bore tide was going to be a big one! We finished our homework, and zipped out to Hope to watch it from my secret spot along Gull Rock trail. We watched it in the wind and cold, hiked and got some caches and had a grand time. At some point, Bearmaul decided it was time to get a burger and beer on the way back. He was excited for that. Guys, seriously, always have a first aid kit on you, even for P&Gs. We were grabbing some caches off the highway, one of which was down an icy hill. No, it wasn't the ice! Bearmaul slipped on some smooth rocks and split his shin open. Bearmaul through grit teeth gasps, "Sign the log for me!!" It actually ended up not being too bad. I mean....he did have a freaking HOLE in his leg but it wasn't bleeding profusely and no bones were broken. He still wanted that burger; I told him we were going to the ER. Bearmaul, you had a HOLE in your LEG!! What, we were supposed to bring a first aid kit for a flat hike and some PnGs? Naaaah. Luckily, 2012 Xterras come with some gauze and I had tape.

# Caching Travelogues

We hit the ER and the waiting room is as it always is, lots of really crabby people. I can't blame them. I mean, they're at the ER after all, but we forget the staff are people too and doing the best they can. Bearmaul was bleeding a bit but we were in high spirits because really, it could've been so much worse. Anyways, we are finally taken back and what do you know?? Akerdoc walks in! He sees Bearmaul's leg and asks, "Did this happen while geocaching?" Oops! He looks over the hole a bit and proceeds with, "Did you get the cache?" Asking the important questions, of course we did! He fixes Ben up and we joke around with him and the nurses. Who would've thought you could have so much fun while getting staples. Let me tell you, Akerdoc is a really great guy and we are very very very thankful. He gave us his personal number and told us to text him if anything seemed awry or come out to his house so that he could take a look. He even called the next day to make sure everything felt ok.

Never fear, Bearmaul still got his burger. I think he earned it.

What a great year. I've learned that maybe we hadn't been seeking friends out in the right places. I now feel like a lot of my social anxiety has improved. Compared to a year ago, I've found it easier to talk to people, even outside of geocachers. Not only that, but I feel like I've gained back some confidence in humanity as a whole. It's a very freeing feeling. Being myself has never felt so attainable. I truly hope everyone else feels this way. I've always been a person to try and do little things to bring joy in someone's life, but I've now been inspired to do more good in the world. Maybe that's cheesy.

So here are my thanks to everyone I've met this last year and anyone else I hopefully meet in the year to come. Thanks not only for being such genuinely amazing and accepting people, but also for putting so much heart and time into a game that brings people together. I feel like I would do literally anything for any of you. Once we were finally allowed to leave the ER, one of the nurses actually thanked us for being nice people. I was sad that she actually felt the need to thank someone for being nice. I really should've hugged her. Maybe she should come to some GeocacheAlaska! events, because as I've learned geocachers are nice people.

## Connors Lake Park (Connors Bog)

5404 Jewel Lake Rd, Anchorage, AK 99517

*By Sean Gaither / ftl-ak*

TheLastFrontier and FTL-AK set out to find some geocaches in Connors Bog. It was raining and a very cloudy day. We started with the few geocaches in the parking area; one ([GC6DA2P](#)) was hidden by a pretty cool guy! Then we set off on the trails. We had a GPS equipped with Northwest Trails (from <http://www.switchbacks.com/nwtrails/>) This was a huge advantage because we could see all the trails in the area without having to go the wrong way, and it helped make sure we didn't make any new trails and mess up the area.

Most geocaches in the area are rated 2/2 but there are some that will be a bit higher like "Those ROTTEN ETs!" (<http://coord.info/GC4BQZX>). Difficulty: ★★★★★ Terrain: ★★★★★

Here is a hint for that amazing Cache:



Those ROTTEN ETs! must have blocked the image - sorry. It has 11 Favorite points so it must be a good one!

This area has a lot of dogs! Just remember not everyone thinks the same way Geocachers do and there are lots of droppings so watch where you step. Also the local wildlife don't have people to clean up for them so watch for their droppings as well.

Be prepared and bring your boots and coats! Also remember you don't have to get them all, we saved ½ of them for our next trip. We wanted to leave with smiles on our faces and not a frown face.

# Caching Travelogues

## We Took Mom on a Road Trip!

By Trish Fredieu / AKLoisandClark

On Saturday March 12 we decided to attend the 4th ANNUAL MARCH BIRTHDAY FLASH MOB (AN EVENT)!! ([GC6AEFP](#)). My mother is 90 years young, lives in an assisted living home, and uses a walker to walk. Why not take her on a road trip? My Mom and Dad were a big road trip couple and geocaching would have been perfect for their California to Louisiana trips.

We picked Mom up at 9am and began our trip to Seward. First stop: McDonalds. Mom and Dad used to stop in the mornings for their sausage biscuit breakfast and then on the road they would go. Mom said "I have not had one of those in years". Wow, a smiley with no cache. Cool. The trip down was dicey. We came upon 4 accidents and 4 ambulances. It seemed to beautiful sunny morning so I think many folks were not prepared for the icy conditions. We did not stop for any caches and made it just in time for the beginning of the event. Mom gets cold, so we parked her in a place where she could watch the festivities and still be warm. She was very happy with that, and we went back to check on her several times.

After, a group headed to grab some caches down Lowell Point Road so we followed along. Our first stop was in Seward at Urban Geocache A.R.T. ([GC59H69](#)) which is a park and grab. Park and Grabs are Mom's favorite caches because she can watch. Next was Spruce Creek Cache ([GC61NF2](#)). Once again we parked so Mom could see the action. Fuzzy did the hard part and we all signed the log. A few folks came up and greeted Mom, which was cool. On the way back to Seward we decided to grab Kathleen's Treasure Box ([GC5MMRY](#)). We looked at this one last year, but were not comfortable with the proximity to the house. Now it is winter and no one was there. We met up with Alasken and both grabbed smileys.

We had a wonderful lunch at Chinnooks. Mom got to sit by the window, enjoying the sunshine, sea otters, and many birds. The tide was rushing in and as we sat there it became slack tide and as we left it was ebbing. Nature at its best. We took a side trip down Nash Rd to see the ship yard. There were no P&G caches, but it was a nice drive. The shipyard was busy with many boats being readied for the upcoming summer season. It is interesting to see large boats, tugs, and fishing boats out of the water. All in all we had an incredible day with Mom. I am lucky to still have her and days like this. I cherish every moment with her.

## How To Get 333 Caches in One Day

By Louise Kempker / freeweez

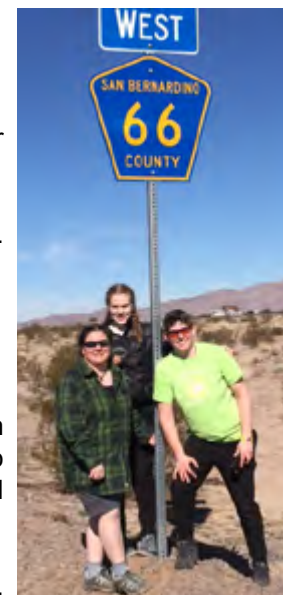
1. Talk about planning a geo-caching trip with 2 other Fan-a-tic/Fan-tas-tic cachers!
2. Talk about where to go.
3. Decide upon the old Route 66 which begins in CA.
4. Investigate the caches.
5. Plan the trip: flights, rental van, supplies
6. Save your money.
7. Go. (actually- # 6 and 7 could be reversed!)

Actually, it went like this: "How about caching in California and Nevada?" "Sure" "When do you want to go?" "Anytime" "Okay - I made reservations, rented a van and packed my bags" "Cool - me too!"

Hockeychicks, AK Erby, and I flew to Las Vegas, rented a van, and drove to Barstow, CA. Stocked up on snacks & water and headed down the highway early the next morning. Planning is the key---one driver, one navigator, one preparing log & cache, and one jumper. Driving with the van door open allows the 'jumper' to make an easy cache-swap! Performing a 'Chinese Fire-Drill' every so often allows for place/change in persons. Cache until dark (because 4 women will not go wandering and looking under rocks in the desert after dark!)

There were still a few days to complete a Geo-Art cache just north of Las Vegas (the smiley), log some Virtual Caches on the 'strip', and complete a set of puzzle caches east of Las Vegas (in the shape of a question-mark). Oh-and get a series of 6 Smart-Phone-Caches, AND one at a drive-through wedding chapel, AND log the CARS movie-themed caches!

8. Tell other cachers how awesome the trip was!
9. Plan to go again.
10. Because bumping numbers is very important sometimes!!

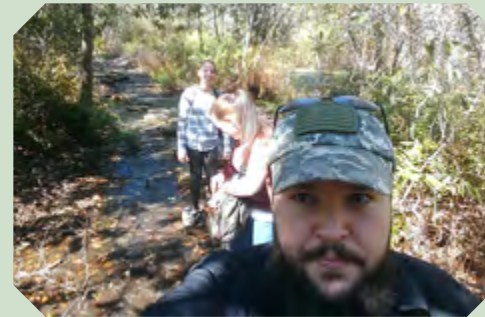
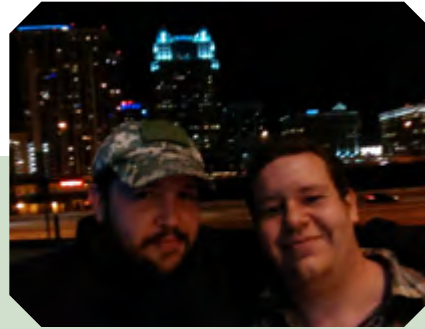
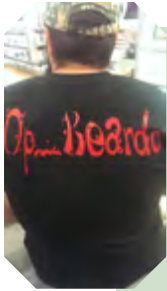




# Caching Travelogues

## Florida Trip

By Andrew Harrell / OP\_Beardo



## Recent Events

### Alaskan Cachers Participate in Earth Day CITO Events

By Dana Rosso / DR-AK

Over the fourth weekend of April, Alaskan Geocachers took part in five separate CITO events held around the state.

GeocacheAlaska! Inc kicked off the weekend with its first CITO event of the year on Friday April 22nd at the chalet located in Kincaid Park. Over 30 cachers made it to the event and spend an hour cleaning up one of the most favored parks in the Anchorage area. The event was a huge success, picking up 24 bags of garbage as well as multiple items that would not fit into the bags. The oddest items found at this event would have to be the bag of smoke bombs. Lucky for us an on duty Airport Police officer was out checking on fire hydrants and was willing to safely dispose of the contraband for us.

Saturday was a busy CITO day around the state, events were held in Anchorage; Ketchikan; as well as in Juneau.

Juneau held its 4th Annual Almost-Earth Day CITO. The cachers in Juneau partnered up with the Southeast Alaska Land Trust for this huge CITO event. While only 8 cachers have logged their attendance for the event there were approximately 60-70 people out on the wetlands cleaning up. The word from the Southeast Alaska Land Trust is that 2,360 lbs of refuse was picked up off the wetlands! Great job Juneau!



While the event in Ketchikan was only attended by two cachers their efforts to clean up the Carlanna Trail Head was very successful. Despite the rain, they both had a great time. [See next page for the article on the Ketchikan CITO.]

Cachers in Anchorage spent a few hours cleaning up along the Campbell Creek Trail. 25 cachers enjoyed home baked snacks and great times along the trail. Bike frames, inflatable mattresses and table bases were among some of the memorable finds, as well as approximately 20 bags of garbage. [See next page for the article on the Campbell Creek CITO.]

The last event of the weekend was held on Sunday the 24th just off the highway at the Reflections Lake exit in the Mat-Su Valley. 23 people joined in with this event, most of them cachers but we had a few muggles join in. This truly was a great location that needed lots of love, the pile of garbage bag was as tall as a 5-year-old. There were least four tires pulled out of the woods, one would have fit on an 18 wheeler. The views on the back side of the tree line made all of the hard work worth it.

Throughout the weekend and the 5 events, with all of the cachers and non cachers joining in there were over 140 volunteers cleaning up the State of Alaska, that is well over 150 volunteer hours making our parks and trails a better place for all Alaskans and visitors to enjoy. GeocacheAlaska! Inc is proud to say that they were able to support each of those events, but what makes us even more proud is the great things that each of you were able to do to help us Celebrate Earth Day Weekend.





# Recent Events

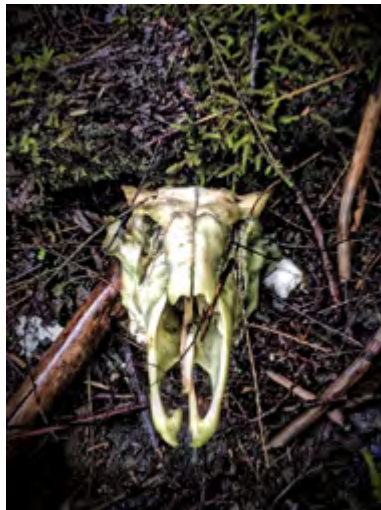
## CITO in the rain...

By *Ericka Rud / akrud*

A couple cachers in the Ketchikan area did their part to help keep the game board clean. The first CITO for the year was held on April 23rd at the Carlanna Lake Trail head. Unfortunately the weather was not overly cooperative in Southeast Alaska. Due to adverse weather conditions (aka pouring down rain and wind) there were a total of 2 cachers willing to brave the elements. Despite the lack of participation, we collected plenty of trash and lots of memories.



*niki1118 and Akrud*



## In Honor of Earth Day: Campbell Creek CITO-G6CY8W

By *Louise Kempker / freeweez*

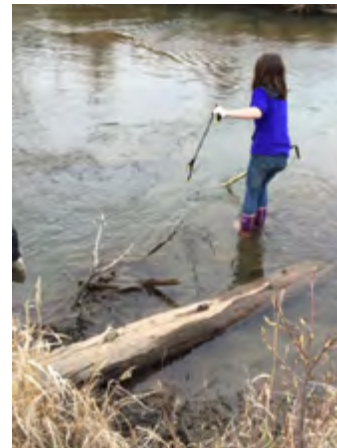


A CITO on the Campbell Creek Trail! Brought to you by Freeweez and Hockey Chicks! Come and help clean up the winter left-overs along the creek and trail.

Cache In Trash Out® is an ongoing environmental initiative supported by the worldwide geocaching community. Since 2002, geocachers around the world have been dedicated to improving parks and other cache-friendly places. Through these volunteer efforts, we help preserve the natural beauty of our outdoor resources!

Over 20 strong and eager Cachers came together and picked up trash alongside and inside Campbell Creek!

Thanks go to all the cachers who came to help and GeocacheAlaska! for providing the CITO kit! The GeocacheAlaska! orange sunglasses seemed to be the biggest prize of all!



# 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](mailto: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.



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

Follow us on Instagram! [@geocachealaska](#)

## 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](mailto: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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