

Around The State

GEOCACHE ALASKA

Exploring the Last Frontier • www.geocachealaska.org



April 2017



*Photo credit: Wes Skinner / NorthWes
Attendees of "I Love a Parade" Feb 25, 2017*

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President's Corner:

by Wes Skinner (NorthWes)

I'm keenly aware of the valuable service our newsletter has provided us over the past three years. Unfortunately Cathy Wilmeth (the Firefly, based in Homer AK) has moved on to other projects and isn't able to continue to serve our organization as Editor. I wish her well in her new endeavors! You've probably noticed we missed publication of the January through March newsletters in her absence, due entirely to my inability to get anywhere near the frequency of publication Cathy achieved. However, we're back with an April newsletter chock full of photos and interesting articles. One of the best of this crop of stories is from Tim Janneck (alaskatim), titled 'Confessions of a Beginning Geocacher.' As you read it I'm sure you'll experience some of the same 'déjà vu' vibes it brought to me. I'm looking forward to more articles from Tim in future newsletters.

Watch for a future special announcement about the 2017 GeocacheAlaska! T-shirt, about to be rolled out for member purchase via an online sales program (as we did last year). A new method of engagement for persons interested in the Golden Ammocan recognition program is described in detail in an article in this newsletter. If you're traveling and geocaching on your travels, be sure to take photos and write up your adventures to share with others via this newsletter. Our travelogue articles have become well-received, as our readers are thirsty to see new places to take their geocaching game.

Groundspeak has announced the Spring Worldwide CITO week is April 22-30. We'll be hosting CITO events, and are seeking members to pick a park of their choice where they can host a CITO event of their own. Material and planning support for such events is available from GeocacheAlaska! Reach out to me at president@geocachealaska.org and I'll help you get your event ready to publish. Our eduvent on April 20th addresses the CITO event, with tips on how to host and what to do when you attend.

Take time to review the upcoming events listed on this newsletter's front page. Make attending the April 19th Urban Geocaching Safety Event a top priority, as the Anchorage Airport Police are hosting a fun and informative session at their headquarters located at 6040 DeHavilland Dr on the airport.

Former board member Mike Farmer, an experienced geocacher and Airport Police Officer, is presenting a wide range of information you'll do well to add to your Tools of the Trade! Get equipped to play safe outside in the city.

Please join me in extending thanks to these Board members who've moved on from their terms of service: Founding member and former treasurer Mike Malvick, former Vice President Dana Rosso, and former members at large Ericka Rud and Mike Farmer. Below is a list of your current 2017 Board of Directors.

2017 Officers and Directors:

Wes Skinner - President, Sean Gaither - Vice President, Trish Fredieu – Secretary, Roberta Bromwell – Treasurer, Scott Aleckson, Webmaster, and Members at Large Michelli Warren, Valerie Manfull, Louise Kempker, and David Thomson.

Please remember your GeocacheAlaska! Inc. Board Meeting dates are posted online at our [website](#). Board meetings are open to our members and the public. Attending a meeting is great way to learn how you can become involved in advocacy, education, and social outreach efforts. GeocacheAlaska.org contains a wealth of information about our organization, its reason for being, its past activities, and links to our online store activities. There's great tools available for developing your geocaching game and showing off your GeocacheAlaska membership on your cache listings, too.

2016 Alaska State Parks Cache Update

Fifty-three new geocaches were placed in Alaska State Park Units in 2016 and fifteen caches archived, bringing the total of geocaches placed in sixty-three Alaska State Park Units to one thousand and fifty-one total. Chugach State Park has the most with 762 active geocaches (and had the most archived) while Chena River State Recreation Area is a distant second with 62 active geocaches. Kepler-Bradley State Recreation Area comes in third at 24. The other 59 State Park Units with geocaches have differing amounts ranging from 1 – 17 geocaches. That leaves 76 Units administered by Alaska State Parks as places where YOU have the opportunity to place the first geocache.

In Memory

It is with a heavy heart that we note the passing of Sourdough Member Gary Apperson (**GaryAK**) on January 28th from cancer complications. Gary is survived by his wife Deborah Apperson (**arwenalaska**). He had this



incredible ability to put people at ease immediately, and his quick genuine smile would light the entire room as he chatted enthusiastically about our game.

His attendance at our education events was a real delight for presenters and attendees alike thanks to the quiet joy he built up around him in social interactions. At Gary's memorial service, it came as no surprise to see universal respect for this affability that underlay the rest of his highly-regarded behaviors. Well-regarded as an Anchorage Police officer,

university professor, private pilot, geocacher and adventure motorcyclist, Gary will be genuinely missed in our tight-knit community. We extend our condolences and best wishes to Deborah, and are looking forward to seeing **arwenalaska** continue out on the geocaching trails.



Tools for New Year Resolution

by Greatland Reviewer

During 2017, Groundspeak will continue to roll out initiatives to help increase the likelihood of new and experienced cachers alike having a quality caching experience. One way we can all increase cache quality in our local communities is to conscientiously maintain our caches. To help with this, the geocaching website has a report you can view after you log into your account that lists all your caches that have the "Needs Maintenance" attribute, are "Temporarily Disabled," or are "Unpublished." When you click on the provided link (<https://www.geocaching.com/hide/cachemaintenance.aspx>), a page with the following header will open with a list of your caches which may need attention:

Your Existing Geocaches May Need Attention

Before you submit a new geocache, it looks like one or more of your existing geocaches ma



Black-Bison (GC5894D) - **Unpublished, Temporarily Disabled**



Stammtisch-on-Ice (GC5KM93) - **Unpublished, Temporarily Disabled**

Occasionally, cachers wish to include third party content on their cache pages such as applications, pdf, txt, mp3, avi, or other files. These can be included on the cache page if the cacher does not have to register with a site and provide personal information such as, but not limited to, a name or e-mail address. Executable files are typically not allowed because they can harbor malware, which is also why the use of memory sticks and similar devices is not permitted. The guidelines contain the mandatory language that must be included on the cache page if a download is required. For more information, visit:

<https://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx#thirdpartycontent>.

Cachers can help with the review process by visiting each of their puzzle/mystery caches and multi-caches and clicking the "Physical" or "Virtual" button at the top of the cache page next to the posted coordinates. Physical stages (comprised of information or items placed in the field by the cacher) must comply with the 528'/0.1 mile proximity guideline. Bogus starting coordinates for puzzle/mystery caches and Virtual stages (comprised of information already in the field, such as a memorial plaque or interpretive sign) are not covered by the proximity guideline.

Finally, in the last weekend of January, I visited the Chugach State Park Upper Huffman Parking lot and saw a park ranger truck parked in the upper lot. Then my gaze shifted to my 2016 Alaska State Parks pass adhering to the inside of my windshield and I realized I was out of compliance. I took a chance on being granted a few grace days to get my new 2017 pass and headed out on a trail run with four of the geohounds. When I returned, the park truck was still parked in the same place and I didn't have a ticket. I ordered my family's new passes online as soon as I got home and received them in the mail two days later. This year, each pass is \$50, unlike past years when one could get a second pass at a discounted rate. For more information, visit <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/passess.htm>.

Kodiak Travelogue

by FTL-AK

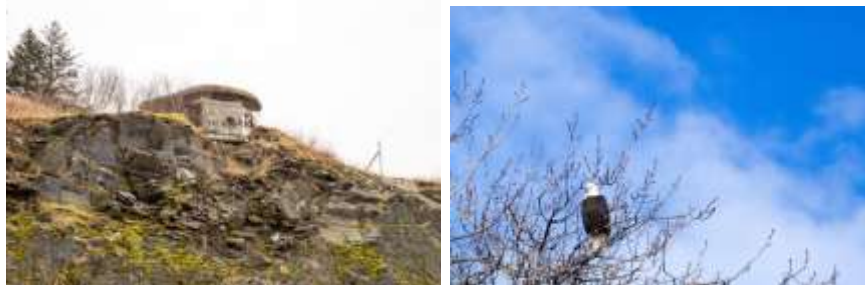
In mid-December I flew to Kodiak for finals week to take my college Sociology final exam in person – which meant I missed Geofest! My sociology teacher (who is amazing) got a nice surprise when Sean the Elf landed on Kodiak Island. My class was on problems and solutions.



I did a food drive for Kodiak Island where we raised over 850 pounds of food - pretty good for our small class size as seen in this photo.

Kodiak island is the second

largest island in the United States and it is beautiful. Even during the winter it was still an amazing time. Lots of fun history including some old World War II bunkers are scattered around the island. Geocaching on the island was a challenge but a good one. Just like when you leave the state, people in different places in Alaska think differently when it comes to how they place their cache hides.



I would personally like to thank Larry from WOCOM for coming to my event "FTL-AK comes to Kodiak." This was my final event in 2016 - my 29th event of the year! In addition I placed 14 geocaches in 2016. I met some amazing people & local geocachers when I was on

Kodiak. I highly recommend making the trip. I was lucky enough to have a vehicle and was able to get around the island fairly easily. If you have questions about Kodiak please don't hesitate to ask or if you have questions about my adventure please let me know. If you are interested in going to Kodiak Island I have heard crab fest in May is the time to go! Also special thanks to Carrie and everyone who logged the Flat Sean traveler - I very much enjoyed reading those logs. I'm very appreciative of the team who came together to make 2016's Geofest! a great success too.



CONFESSIONS OF A BEGINNING GEOCACHER

By Tim Janneck/alaskatim

Do you appreciate being around little kids at Christmas or for birthdays (or even when they just score some candy)? Why? If you're like me, it's because you get some vicarious joy in just seeing how excited they can get with candy or a present, much less a whole holiday season! How could you not at least smile when you see a 5 year-old that is so excited that they are bouncing up and down, yelping a bit in their excitement. Besides enjoying the kids' excitement, the shared experience can trigger your own memories – wide-eyed excitement and wonder in others might spark your own joy. Do you remember your initial excitement when you started geocaching? Your first find? Your first (successful) multi-cache? Those firsts just happened to me, and I was bouncing up and down a bit when they happened. Maybe a little unseemly at my age, but understandable I think.

When I have been hiking or skiing from cache to cache in the past six months, I have had some time to think about this new pastime and what I am getting out of it (besides some cool pathtags and bunch of scratches from sharp branches). There's a lot to like about geocaching, and I bet that what I like most will change with time and experience. The top three things I like the most (so far) about my new hobby are:

1. Another reason to get outside! I have always felt that I was willing to go outside, even if it was snowing or cold – but now I have even more of a compulsion. There are a lot of folks that talk about why they got a dog – to encourage them to get outside and to get some exercise. If you have a dog, and you geocache – how could you stay indoors!
2. Exploration: I have been hiking some of the trails in the Chugach State Park for four decades. I love the trails, and get out on them on foot, on skis, and as often as I could. However – throw a hidden cache into the mix and I find myself stepping off that familiar trail into some unknown and mysterious spots. The caches have led me to some beautiful meadows I didn't know were hidden nearby, and some peaceful and magical pockets of tree canopy that I have walked obliviously by – unaware of what was hidden there (literally!). I always thought that bushwhacking in the park was a bad idea – wet, impenetrable, and unknown. Now I know that some amazing places aren't located right on the trail or in front of a convenient trail-side bench.



When hunting a cache brings you to a place like this – you have to think that it's a great hobby (photo from Isle of Skye, Scotland 2016). And yes – I found the cache!

3. A new dimension: my wife and I travel quite a bit, even more now that we are retired. We go hiking, and sea kayaking, and sightseeing in new places all over the world. Although I just started this new hobby – I am amped about the added dimension of hidden caches in new and known places! Sometimes I don't even have to travel far to open up this new world (there are four caches at my local grocery store). In Hawaii, a hunt for a nearby cache led us to a tiny pocket beach that would have been virtually invisible to us without geocaching to guide us there. There are a lot of hobbies that don't travel well; geocaching sure does ...

I can't wait to find more things to enjoy in this new hobby!

alaskatim is a beginning geocacher who started about 11 months ago, has 258 finds (so far as of this writing), and is working on placing his first hide. Suggestions and advice are welcome.

GeocacheAlaska! Golden Ammocan Awards

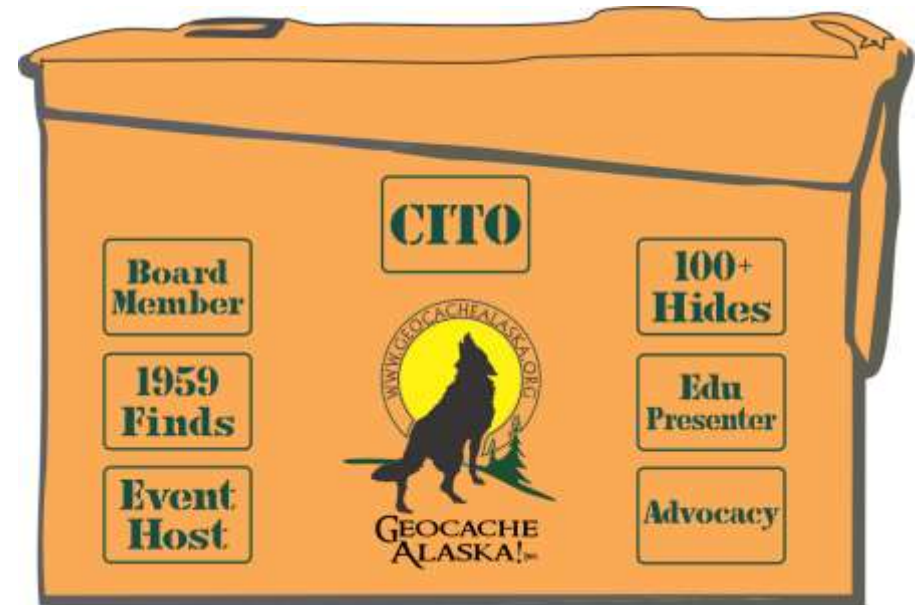
By the GeocacheAlaska! Inc Membership Committee

GeocacheAlaska! sponsors a member recognition program that awards personalized Golden Ammocans to qualifying Sourdough Members. This is part of an effort to recognize those individuals who give back to the Alaska geocaching community through their participation in finding and placing geocaches, in serving on the Board of Directors, in hosting both regular and CITO events, carrying out advocacy activities, and in acting as a presenter at GeocacheAlaska! Eduvents. There has been a tremendous amount of work put into preparation of the ammocans already presented, as well as ferreting out who is eligible for these awards. The Board wishes to thank Victoria Noble (Blazing Pathways) and Tom Noble (TomANoble) for their creativity and pioneering efforts in developing and implementing this recognition program.

Because some who qualify aren't interested in receiving a Golden Ammocan, we are moving to a system where interested members notify us of their eligibility via an application presented in upcoming newsletter issues. Qualifying members will notify GeocacheAlaska! of their interest by email, and a customized Ammocan will be prepared for presentation at an annual awards event currently planned for November. Cutoff for notification of interest is in September, to give the membership committee time to prepare the award. Watch for the application notice in our next few newsletters.

Initial award eligibility requires two years' longevity as a GeocacheAlaska Sourdough member, current Sourdough membership status, current or former Alaska resident status, and completion of 1959 finds (with a minimum of 500 being found in Alaska). Additional award badges are presented in addition to the initial Golden Ammocan award for service as an Event Host, Board Member, Advocacy advocate, Eduvent Presenter, CITO Event Host, and for placing 49 hides and 100 hides. Larger ammocans are awarded for further exceptional achievements at the discretion of the membership committee. Each Golden Ammocan is stenciled with the member name on one side, and the award badge decals are mounted on the reverse side from their name.

Please note the Golden Ammocans are presented in person. Recipients not able to attend the awards event must coordinate with GeocacheAlaska! details regarding how they'll have their award shipped to them.



Interested in an E.T. Highway Roadtrip?

GeocacheAlaska Sourdough member **biggriz** is looking for preferably 3 other cachers to meet up in Nevada sometime in June to cache the E.T. Highway power trail. He is planning on about 5 to 10 days, and is looking to cache all or most of it in that time frame. If interested please contact him directly at biggriz@gci.net



GeocacheAlaska! Education Outreach at Fred and Sara Machetanz Elementary School

What began with an email inquiry from a teacher with Mat-Su Borough School District turned into an exciting and delightful learning experience with seventy-five fourth graders from Machetanz Elementary School. Teacher Kathryn Brown wrote an integrated learning plan to coordinate three activity sessions moving students from classroom to school grounds, and then out on to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge's Reflection Lake trail. A team of three GeocacheAlaska! Sourdough Members from the Education Committee volunteered to work with her to support the plan's geocaching-related development and its execution. Mrs. Brown applied for the ADF&G permit needed for such a large group to use the Reflection Lake trail as work moved ahead on the first two sessions.

The first activity session found caching team AKLois&Clark (Trish Fredieu and Darrel Jackson) meeting up with NorthWes (Wes Skinner) in Wasilla at Machetanz Elementary School. The trio brought a variety of caching-related props to pass around the classroom so everyone could get their hands on the objects being described as part of a 'What is the Geocaching Game' presentation. Our members were impressed by the students' positive attitudes and desire to learn, remarking later that the gathered crowd of 75 persons was the most enthusiastic and well-mannered audience they'd ever met. By the end of the hour-long session a half-dozen of the fourth-graders had (on their own initiative) downloaded the Geocaching App to their personal smart phones and were asking our presenters a series of questions that led to those students actually geocaching with their parents on their way home from school that afternoon!

The second session followed on nearly a month later, and involved a well-crafted series of 18 'caches' placed around the expansive school property. Mrs. Brown led our volunteer trio around the grounds, placing the caches at previously-selected locations whose coordinates had been entered into the ninety Garmin eTrex units owned as part of the school's technology resources. This teacher took the time to learn how to mass-program the units, downloading Mapsource (the only

program the legacy eTrex units could 'talk' to) and teaching students how to use a computer to cross-load the coordinates onto their units. Each student was equipped with their own GPS unit for sessions 2 and 3.



Getting ready to get outside during the second session – as one class prepares to receive their Garmin eTrex GPS units for the first time

The 75 students were split into teams averaging 4 persons each, and had a list of six sites they were to find. Each 'cache' site held written instructions guiding the students through field observation and problem-solving tasks developed as part of the learning curriculum they were following in related classroom activities. Bright sunshine, almost no breeze and temperatures in the twenties made the outdoor time no barrier to learning. Their simplicity and lack of a touch-screen on the Garmin eTrex helped the units perform well in chilly conditions, while users learned about how the 'fix' settled down best while they were walking. Most quickly grasped the importance of having a clear knowledge of simple compass directions separate from what they were seeing on the GPS screen. Once again, our volunteers remarked on the serious yet joyous attitude the students brought to this task, which made the event into several hours of outdoor pure pleasure for GeocacheAlaska!'s volunteer team.

The final session found the volunteer team at Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge's Reflection Lake trail an hour before students were to arrive. Mrs. Brown had scouted another eighteen 'cache' sites, and led the effort to place the eighteen containers in advance of students arriving on site. When the bus pulled up and disgorged the classes, everything was ready for an 'in the wild' experience that found the small four-person teams (each with an adult escort) ranging independently along the trail around the lake. They were to find their six assigned 'cache' sites and perform the assigned tasks found in each container. It was fun to be outside on the trail this day following a fresh four-inch snowfall, hiking in bright sunshine with temps in the twenties, making for a genuinely delightful winter caching afternoon. These students exemplified what we ask of geocachers in general in terms of good outdoor behaviors, observing all the safety conditions they'd been taught and making sure all the gear made it back to the trailhead as planned. The CITO ethic was introduced and resulted in a small amount of trash getting picked up too. Students averaged about two miles of hiking in the snowy trail conditions, and all were dressed to be comfortable outdoors.



A student team at one of their cache sites on the Reflection Lake Trail

One of GeocacheAlaska! Inc.'s signature reasons for existence is to provide education regarding geocaching. We are thrilled that Mrs. Brown reached out to us to help implement her excellent learning concepts, and cannot give her seventy-five students, fellow teachers and parent volunteers enough praise for their positive attitudes, genuine interest, and enthusiasm for learning how to navigate using GPS units. If any of these students develop into full-fledged geocachers (and we know at least a half dozen are already new players), the game is going to receive a giant shot in the arm – especially out in Wasilla!

Pathfinder and Lolo say goodbye to Alaska!



Often we're graced with events hosted by visiting geocachers as part of their desire to meet locals, trade travel bugs, and enjoy the social aspects of our game. Recent event GC724FJ **Pathfinder and Lolo say goodbye to Alaska** went one step further, as it allowed Ladybug Kids to greet on his

home turf his long-distance caching friends Pathfinder33 and LolosDream. This then-Texas-based couple helped keep LBK on the road for hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of miles chasing the 5/5 Texas County Challenge Geocache during his recent frequent work visits to the Lone Star State. LBK is reportedly the first 'nonresident' to complete finding caches in Texas' 254 counties spread out across over 268,000 square miles. This is the oldest and no doubt toughest of the state county challenge caches out there! The trio wore their challenge finisher t-shirts proudly as a group of local cachers



gathered at a well-known Spenard eatery to celebrate Pathfinder and Lola's visit to Fairbanks and Anchorage as part of their first Alaska geocaching odyssey.

Outdoor Winter Socials - Chilling with your Geobuddies across the snowy times...



GeocacheAlaska! Education Volunteers spent four hours through the middle of the day running an Introduction to Geocaching clinic during the Winter Trails Day activities that following the early-morning “**Celebrate Winter Caching at BLM Campbell Tract**” event on January 28th. We strive to provide excellent support for public education and learning activities whenever the Bureau of Land Management’s Campbell Science Center hosts outdoor events. The land managers at BLM Campbell Tract allied with us on an early learning journey regarding how to integrate archaeological, biological, and general land use requirements into a plan that allowed geocaching placements while preserving areas of the Campbell Tract that needed extra protection for various reasons. For more than a decade we’ve had a gracious and mutually supportive relationship with BLM, and the Campbell Tract has become a favorite caching territory for locals and visitors alike thanks to the excellent land management practices here.



A well-dressed crowd came out for the “**I Love a Parade**” event down on Anchorage’s Sixth Avenue, roaming the downtown Fur Rondy festivities as a cover for geocaching efforts after the February 25th event.



More than three dozen folks showed up for the March 14th ‘**Mo Pi Mo Pi**’ event held at Cuddy Family Midtown Park. Crisp and cold weather made for a good time gathered around lots of yummy round edible stuff!

December 2016 GEOFEST Event

Friday evening festivities began with a Welcome and Introduction of new GeocacheAlaska! Board Members, and flowed immediately into dinner and social time for attendees. This year added a well-received Kids Zone area upstairs to give the younger crowd a range of hands-on activities to keep them busy while the older crowd spent time in conversation. Geo-Bingo made for a great mixer game during the first part of the evening while judges were working behind the scenes to tally the winners from attendee voting on this year's dessert entries. The dessert contest wrapped up at 6:45pm, and the Kids Zone closed at 7:15pm in preparation for the next round of fun.



Promptly at 7:30pm folks were lined up for the Gift Exchange, with Melanie Stone leading the crowd left and right through the “Night Before Christmas Story” as a way to pass around the wrapped gifts for exchange.

Michelli Warren won the stuffed ‘Signal’ in the ‘Best Ugly Christmas Sweater’ competition with her shroud of evergreen. Our attendees were the biggest winners of the night, reaping the benefit of all the hard work put in by our volunteers in planning and executing one of the largest event efforts of the year.

Here’s the list of GeoFest dessert winners:

Geocaching Themed Desserts:

1. TheLastFrontier – ‘Waiting for Muggles to Leave’ cookies
2. Green M&M - Green M&M cake
3. RSPace – ‘The Great Gummy Bear Caper’ popcorn balls



Muggle Desserts:

1. Valerieseaker - Muggle Brownies
2. RSPace - Guinness Chocolate Cake with Irish Cream frosting
3. alaskatim - Brownies with coconut layer



December 2016 Geofest Smiles...



This is one of those events where we get to reconnect with the persons behind those cute caching handles, where we tell our favorite stories, or simply enjoy the good company of like-minded geocachers and fine folks who make our lives a better place thanks to their shared interest in this great game about location.



5th ANNUAL MARCH BIRTHDAYS FLASH MOB EVENT !!

It's not too often that geocachers come together to celebrate their birthdays – but that is just what happened in March on a recent Saturday morning in Anchorage. The Fifth Annual March Birthday Flash Mob was held at a local eatery, and the 6 birthday cachers plus 2 spouses of cachers, had the “Happy Birthday Song” sung to them in rousing fashion!



The special March birthday cachers in this pic are: (L to R) Kathy (spouse of JackCat), Tony (Malcore), Dave (spouse of Freeweez), Louise (freeweez), Lisa (WOCM), Sue (1/2 of HockeyChicks), Erika (*Skadi*) and Tom (tomanoble) - lined up by their birth-date - not year!!

There is a 5th annual March Birthday pathtag – but in true caching fashion - they did not arrive in time for distribution. This was the first March Birthday Flash Mob to be held in Anchorage – as the first 4 were all held in Seward, AK! Cupcakes, singing, stories, laughter, birthday presents all made this a favorite and fun event!! Look for the 6th Annual March Birthday Flash Mob in March 2018!

Upcoming Events of Particular Interest:



GC73KBT Urban Geocaching Safety

Wednesday April 19th at 6:30pm - This event is being hosted by the Anchorage Airport Police at their main station at 6040 Dehavilland Drive on the airport itself. The building is secure so everyone must gather in the parking lot in advance of the event to be escorted inside. If you arrive late, come in the main door, ring the bell, and someone will escort you in. Firearms are restricted to Law Enforcement only while inside, kids are more than welcome, and station tours can be arranged.

Cacher and Airport Police Office Mike Farmer (farmerak) will discuss some of the common pitfalls, and some uncommon, we as cachers come across when exploring our city; CITO safety; drug paraphernalia; considerate cache placement; and what to do when/if you're contact by Law Enforcement while caching



GC73DGC CITO Event FUNdamentals

Thursday April 20th at 7pm - It's Springtime in Alaska - and we all know what that means! Yes, it's time to pick up a winter's worth of trash. Learn all about Cache In Trash Out (CITO) Events from local cacher NorthWes in this fast-paced and fun-filled presentation. You will learn all about how to setup and host a CITO event of your own, from site choice to planning to execution – and then, how to dispose of the ‘haul.’ Even if you don't want to be a CITO host, you'll find plenty of tips for the attendees of CITO events and how to safely practice CITO every time you geocache. This event is perfect for new cachers as well as old hands; and the young through the ancient. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 at 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! Inc. 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 Inc. 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! Inc.'s advocacy efforts more clout and credibility during land manager conversations, so please sign up today!

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

1. Navigate to the [GeocacheAlaska!](http://www.geocachealaska.org) 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.
 - B. Click on "Add to Cart" to purchase an annual membership – OR –
 - C. Download a membership form you can print and mail with payment
2. Attend one of the upcoming GeocacheAlaska! events and speak to any Board Member present, who'll happily help you sign up!



FIND US ONLINE AT:

1. GeocacheAlaska! website: www.geocachealaska.org
2. GeocacheAlaska! forums: geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi
3. Facebook Group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/geocachealaska/>
4. GeocacheAlaska! Facebook Page: [GeocacheAlaska! Page](https://www.facebook.com/GeocacheAlaska!/)
5. Follow us on Instagram: [@geocachealaska](https://www.instagram.com/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 GeocacheAK" in permanent marking. The cache listing must state "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've missed previous newsletters, check out the series here.

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GEOCACHE ALASKA
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