

GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

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FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

HAPPENING NOW:

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TRAIL USER UPDATE:

Please remember that designated ski trails for skiers during the season the trails are being groomed. With this year's ample snowpack, grooming may continue into May unless we have an unusually warm April. Many of the ski trails are groomed by the non-profit [Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage](#) at a cost of more than \$1 million raised via annual trail pin sales. Trail pins cost \$50-\$700, so please respect the trails and the folks who contribute to the grooming effort.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to renew your GeocacheAlaska! Sourdough (formerly, "Premium") membership. If you pay one year at a time, your membership expired on December 31, 2011. If you set up a PayPal subscription, your membership automatically renews on the subscription payment date.

You may renew your membership via PayPal (annually or by subscription), downloading a membership form and mailing it with your payment, or at any GeocacheAlaska! hosted event. All online resources you need are located on the [Join GeocacheAlaska! webpage](#).

Your membership dues help underwrite the baseline expenses (website hosting, post office box rental, etc.) of running an organization such as ours. Income from dues and geobling sales also helps underwrite the expense of hosting events, event prizes, and food when provided. In addition to financially supporting GeocacheAlaska!, benefits of Sourdough membership include discounts on geobling and events and voting rights for the Board of Directors. Because GeocacheAlaska! is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your membership dues are tax deductible.

If you have any questions about your current membership status, please e-mail Ladybug Kids at ladybugs@geocachealaska.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



February 29 is going to be a big day for geocaching worldwide and right here in Alaska. From the Groundspeak newsletter, *"In the 11 years and 9 months since the first geocache was placed, there is single date on which only a small fraction of geocachers have ever logged a cache. We suspect that's because this particular date has only happened twice in geocaching history; it's February 29, also known as leap day. Given our penchant for all things that leap (frogs, gazelles, lizards, excited geocachers), we wanted to mark the third leap day in geocaching history — February 29, 2012 — by seeing how many accounts can log a cache that day. Last February 29, way back in 2008, 36,696 distinct accounts logged an "Attended" or "Found it" on a cache. Given the growth of the geocaching community since then, we think we can double that number this year. But 73,392 distinct accounts logging a cache is a lofty goal; it's the second highest number of accounts to log a cache in a single day. The current record, 78,313, was set on 10/10/10. Considering that 10/10/10 was a Sunday and February 29 will be a Wednesday, it is going to require a huge push to reach our goal."*

Cachers don't want to miss logging a cache on this date because you only get to fill in the February 29 calendar date to complete the ["Leave No Day Uncached"](#) challenge once every four years. Also, Groundspeak will award a new souvenir to cachers logging a cache on this date. If you don't want to wade into the ample snow around the state to log a physical cache, you can attend an event in Anchorage, Cordova, or Soldotna.

Anchorage cachers are hosting three events. The day kicks off with ["Leap Into Breakfast with GeocacheAlaska!"](#) at 6:15 a.m. at Village Inn, transitions to the lunchtime ["Leapin' for Lunch Flash Mob"](#) at noon in the Anchorage Town Square, and wraps up in the evening with ["It's a Leapin' Li'l gray Birthday Flash Mob,"](#) at 6:00 p.m. at Oceanview Park in South Anchorage.

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In Cordova, cachers can earn a smilie by attending the “[Leap Over Hana's Glacier & Snowpocalypse @ WOW](#)” at 6:00 p.m. and Soldotna cachers can do the same at “[Kenai River Leap Frog Flash Mob](#)” which kicks off at 6:29 p.m.

LAND ACCESS HIGHLIGHTS:

A team of local cachers including Cavyguy, FlightRiskAK, Tomanoble, and Blazingpathways have worked hard to complete the requirements for Mat-Su and Chugach State Parks geocaching permits. At this time this newsletter went to press, the permits only needed a final signature. Once that happens, the 2012 permit numbers will be posted on the GeocacheAlaska! website on the Land Manager webpage at <http://geocachealaska.org/landmanagers.htm> and in the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Use Forums](#).

EDUCATION FUNDamentals:

The next GeocacheAlaska! FUNDamentals event will be Thursday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. The March session will be about Geocaching Trackables which include travel bugs, geocoins, and many variations. If you don't live in the Anchorage area and would like to host a local session or participate online via WebEx, contact Scott Aleckson at sso.joat@gmail.com.

Previous editions of “Around the State” are now on our website. If you have missed previous newsletters, check

out the series (including previous Trail Reports) [here](#).



2012 GeocacheAlaska! Bling Projects

The GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors Merchandise Committee is working on a number of projects to bring out new Alaska-themed bling this year. Watch your e-mail and the forums for an impending announcement about voting for pathtag designs. The [2012 GeocacheAlaska! Path Tag Design Competition](#) resulted in nearly *three dozen* designs to choose from, so the Board of Directors has decided to produce a pathtag each quarter and an annual pathtag connected with the 2012 geocoin.

The format of the 2012 geocoin has not been decided yet, so if you have ideas, please send Ladybug Kids an e-mail. The 2011 jade geocoin project was very successful, but let's try to top it!

GeocacheAlaska! has landed distributorships for [Groundspeak](#) and [Geoswag.com](#), which allows us to purchase items at a discount and bring them to Alaskan cachers so you don't have to pay shipping. Please take a look at these sites and let us know if there are any items you'd like us to add to the GeocacheAlaska! store.

All geobling related correspondence should be sent to Ladybugs Kids at ladybugs@geocachealaska.org or akgh519 at grasshopper@gci.net.



Dora of Baradora at winter recovery of [Pilot Rock](#).



Kona & Aero at [Aero and Kona-A Tribute to Our Caching Buddies](#)

The editors of ‘Around the State’ welcome your articles. We'd love to publish your favorite trails in your own back yard! Send your articles, photographs and ideas to ladybugs@geocachealaska.org, attention “Around the State”

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