

GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

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MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY

Joe Edwards (akfossil) resigned as Vice President due to complications in his personal life (following some complex surgery on his leg - best wishes for a full recovery, Joe!). GeocacheAlaska! Inc. bylaws provide for the board to elect a replacement when a vacancy occurs within the board of directors. If you're interested in recommending a hard-working Alaskan cacher for this position let us know in an email to president@geocachealaska.org Don't hesitate to volunteer yourself, a serving member of the board, or any other GeocacheAlaska! member whom you believe will work hard to build up geocaching in the Great Land. Vice presidential responsibilities can be viewed in the by-laws which are downloadable by clicking [here](#).

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!!!

GeocacheAlaska! compiled a survey on land use issues, events, bling, the Board of Directors, and other topics on SurveyMonkey.com. Please click this [link](#) and give us feedback on these topics.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



[Mo' Pie 2 Tailgater Flash Mob](#), Wednesday, π , at 2 π p.m. , or, 3/14 at 6:28 p.m., in Anchorage. Where else but a CIRCLE to celebrate the concept of Pi/Pie? An extensive aerial survey was conducted for a suitably impressive circle. Several grandiose circles in the city were considered and found wanting. So we settled on a location just .15 miles from GoogleEarth's Anchorage Midpoint, on a bearing of 285 degrees true north – the circle on 40th Avenue, just a block and a half east of C Street. The time chosen of 6:28pm pays homage to 2π , and gives you plenty of time to get to midtown after work with a pie of your choosing to share. Bring a few paper plates & napkins too – pies can get messy! What a great way to celebrate the first Wednesday after 'Spring Ahead' Daylight Savings Time Sunday – with a flash mob full of Pie!



Huh?

It's cake. But it's pi. But it's CAKE.
But it's PI. BUT IT'S CAKE!!!!

[Trackable FUNDamentals Eduvent](#), Thursday, March 15, 7:00 p.m., at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. Cavyguy will discuss the types of trackables, how to log them, and how to maximize the likelihood that they will keep moving.

Contact [SSO.JOAT](#), if you are outside the immediate Anchorage area, but would like to attend via free WebEx streaming.

[Trail Aware Flashmob](#), Tuesday, April 10, 6:15 p.m. followed by Anchorage Trails Plan Meeting

STATE PARKS PERMITS GRANTED!!!

Through the efforts of Cavyguy, Tomanoble, FlightRiskAK, and Blazingpathways, GeocacheAlaska! obtained blanket permits for Chugach State Park and the Mat-Su State Parks.

The permits are applicable for both physical caches and EarthCaches.

The permit number for the Chugach State Park is **12-044** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page.

The permit number for the Mat-Su State Parks is **S12-010** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page.

The affected Mat-Su jurisdiction parklands are:

Big Lake North and South SRS's
Denali State Park
Finger Lake SRS
Hatcher Pass – East Management Area (State Lands Only)
Nancy Lake SRS
Nancy Lake SRA
King Mountain SRS
Matanuska Lakes SRA
Montana Creek SRS
Rocky Lake SRS
Summit Lake SRS
Willow Creek SRA

Mat-Su State Parks Cache Placement Stipulations are:

1. Standard caches must be placed at least 10 yards from any trail, road, structure or sign. They must also be at least 100 yards from any State Public use Cabin. Micro caches (35 mm film canister size or less) may be exempt from this stipulation with area ranger approval.
2. Caches may not be placed within 1/10th mile from each other.
3. Cache must not include any food or edible items.
4. Cache may not contain any items that have a noticeable odor.
5. Cache may not contain any profanity, offensive material or anything otherwise that would be inappropriate for young children.
6. Caches must have a preferably waterproof log.
7. Cache must have, in permanent marker, the following notation: **Alaska State Parks Permit #S10-047.**
8. Cache must be placed in a durable, sealable, watertight, non-biodegradable container and must be kept in clean, dry, and serviceable condition.
9. Cache container may not be greater than 400 cubic inches in size (equal to a 50 caliber ammo

can, 10.5 x 5 x 8 inches), and must be a color that blends in with the surroundings.

10. No surveyors flagging will be used in marking the Cache.
11. No natural resources will be damaged or destroyed in the placing of the Cache. Live vegetation may not be cut or disturbed.
12. Caches may not be buried.
13. Historic Parks: Cache location may not be placed in any location that could damage, disturb, or otherwise impact a historical site, building, or artifact. No caches may be placed in areas that are intentionally fenced, signed or otherwise marked as hazardous or closed to the public.
14. Cache location must not present a hazard to the general public.
15. The Permittee is encouraged to visit the cache at least once per year to ensure that the stipulations are followed.
16. Annual Report: By March of each year, the Permittee shall provide the issuing office an annual list of caches in the Mat-Su Area. The list shall include at minimum: Cache name, cache code, coordinates, date of installation. (Note: Compliance with this final stipulation will be handled by the GeocacheAlaska! Advocacy Committee.)

The current permit numbers and downloadable copies of the permits can also be obtained from the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Manager webpage](#) or the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Use Forums](#).

ANCHORAGE TRAILS PLANNING

GeocacheAlaska! Inc. has been invited to participate in the development of the Anchorage Trails Plan. This plan is a subset of the [MOA Nonmotorized Transportation Plan](#), itself a subset of AMATS – Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Solutions. This means as an organization GeocacheAlaska! is providing input directly into the planning process for how Anchorage develops and maintains its vast and varied trail systems over the course of the next several decades. We have been asked to attend a meeting on April 10th with other walking/running/hiking groups to discuss survey results being returned to MOA planners by March 30th.

We are asking our membership to respond with their own answers to several of the survey's opinion questions. Please click this [link](#) to open the survey. Your answers will be incorporated into GeocacheAlaska!'s completed survey when it goes back to the planners. Additionally, you are invited to join us at the 7:00 pm meeting April 10th, to be held at the MOA Planning & Development Center at the northwest corner of Elmore Rd and Dr ML King Jr Ave. *(continued on next page)*

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To help interested folks find the location GeocacheAlaska! Inc is hosting a "Trail Aware" event at 6:15pm on the same day; see more details at [GC3E93N](#).

It is exciting to see GeocacheAlaska! Inc recognized by MOA Parks and MOA Community Development as a credible user group organization in the city. This is due in large part to your participation in CITO and training events held on MOA Parklands, and park staff awareness of the CITO ethic and general good stewardship practiced by geocachers as they play in city parks. Please provide input via the online SurveyMonkey poll, for which you will soon receive a link by email so we can provide your input to the city planners. Finally, thank you for joining GeocacheAlaska! Inc. and adding your voice to the effort to continue geocaching on city parklands.



LEAPING TO THE OCCASION!!!

What a wonderful day of Leap Day Events we had in Alaska, joining in to help Groundspeak exceed their [goal](#) of the most caching accounts logging a cache on a single day! There goal was 73,000 accounts, but the current tally is 83,000 accounts and still climbing. Thank you all who took the time to organize and bring off these events!



The morning started off in Anchorage with the '[Leap Into Breakfast with GeocacheAlaska!](#)' Event. Thank you to GeocacheAlaska! for putting on this event and for the great service Village Inn and their staff provided. The weather did not stop us geocachers, but it did prevent a few of the Village Inn staff from making it to work on time!

The Anchorage events continued at lunchtime with the '[Leapin' for Lunch Flash Mob](#)' put on by Cavyguy. An even larger group of cachers made this event, enduring the cold windy weather to exchange a few hellos, sign the log, draw for some bling and take a photo or two.

There were three evening events around the state. The '[Kenai River Leap Frog Flash Mob](#)' event was the first

ever for the cachers down there. Cordova also had the '[Leap Over Hana's Glacier & Snowpocalypse @ WOW](#)' Event. I wonder what 'winter friendly' means in Cordova this year!?!

The third evening event was in Anchorage and was called '[It's a Leapin' Lilgray Birthday Flash Mob](#).' Many thanks to Karma123, Momima and Meljo for putting on this event celebrating our friends Lilgray's birthday and Leap Day. This one had cake pops made by

Meljo, Lilgrays birthday ammo can filled with all your gifts, a bling drawing, several new traditional caches and a fun night cache. Despite the cold temps there was a large turnout and even had a couple of out of state cachers in attendance!



HOST YOUR OWN EVENT by akgh519

Hey! Did you know that you too could put on your very own Event cache? Since becoming involved and showing up to them myself, I have learned you can and it is not even that hard. Write up a cache page, make a logsheet, have a bit of bling for a drawing if you like and have fun!!!! The topic or occasion for your event is up to you, and the possibilities are endless!!! I am planning on putting one on this summer. It will be a trek somewhere out enjoying Alaska and I promise it won't be too difficult!

Everyone seems to enjoy Event Caches so much so have your own and let's see what you all can come up with!!! GeocacheAlaska! will also support the event with prizes and in some limited cases, financial underwriting with Board of Directors approval.

ONLINE ARCHIVES

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](#).



Photo by NorthWes - Sunset at Lake Hood near [Sugar-A Tribute to Our Caching Buddies](#)



2012 Pathtag Designs Decided

GeocacheAlaska! is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 GeocacheAlaska! Pathtag Design Contest.

136 pathtag aficionados voted for their favorite designs. Votes were cast from Australia to Portugal, Alaska to Florida.

Without further ado, the winners are:

1st Place, GeocacheAlaska! 2012 Annual Pathtag:



19 by Mickey and Goofy

2nd through 5th places, GeocacheAlaska! 2012 Quarterly tags

(yes, the 1st quarter tag will be issued late)



1 by qaplake



8 by negativesleep



4 by Mickey and Goofy



14 by Mickey and Goofy

Mega thanks to all the talented designers who submitted designs. The number and quality of designs far exceeded expectations. There has been more than one cacher who commented, "If GeocacheAlaska! doesn't produce Design X, I want to make it my personal!"

Many thanks to Capra Hircus for setting up the contest and volunteering to help with the production process. He will be in contact with the winners to coordinate creation of the blueprint and will interface with the GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors for final design approval and production scheduling. The GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors has a meeting Thursday, March 15, 2012, at which time a tentative production schedule, quantities, etc., will be determined. All geobling related correspondence should be sent to Ladybugs Kids at ladybugs@geocachealaska.org or akgh519 at grasshopper@gci.net.

Photo below: View near [Quadventure's Great Adventure](#) (photo by akgh519)



*The editors of 'Around the State' welcome your articles and photos. 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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