



## September 2013

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR—EVENTS

[FAIRBANKS CACHAPPLOOSA 2013](#), Fairbanks, Sept. 7

[Geocache Rally Event](#), September 21

### RECENT EVENT HAPPENINGS

[Biking from Johnson to Hope](#), Kenai Mountains, August 10

[Day #15--Geocacher's Anonymous Flash Mob](#), Anchorage, 8/15

[Cupcake](#), Anchorage, August 16

[Ice Cream](#), Anchorage, August 17

[International Geocaching Day - Part Deux](#), Fairbanks, 8/17

[International Geocaching Day - Spenard 2-fer](#), Anchorage, 8/17

[Life Jackets Required](#), Anchorage, August 18

[Cruising By Skagway](#), Skagway, August 19

[August XIX](#), Anchorage, August 19

[August XX lets go caching!](#), Anchorage, August 20

[Day 30!](#), Anchorage, August 30

[48 - Why Wait?!](#), Mirror Lake, August 31



### President's Corner

by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

With Fall on our doorstep now is the time to make sure your caches are in good shape for winter. Damp or downright wet caches have been seen recently, due in part to August's heavy rains. Many caches have experienced a heavy find rate over the summer which has left their logbooks near or completely full. An owner maintenance visit is in order if a cache you own has the 'red wrench' icon on its listing – this means a cacher has filed a 'needs maintenance' log to draw the cache owner's attention to a detail needing care. Geocaching.com has added a step during the new cache listing process which reminds you of a cache with a 'needs maintenance' listing, and our own Greatland Reviewer recently did a courtesy reminder cache page note (thank you GR!) to help cache owners be aware of their hides which are listed as needing maintenance.

As a reminder (because we've had several articles about cache maintenance already this year) the 'red wrench' doesn't mean you have to archive your cache. It's a courtesy note from a fellow cacher letting you know there's some detail involving your cache which needs attention to detail. The 'needs maintenance' log

should *never* be used when a cache can't be found either – that's what "did not find" (DNF) logs are for – as a cacher doesn't know a cache 'needs maintenance' if they never found the cache in the first place! Honor the commitment you made as a cache owner when you first placed the cache to keep it well-maintained. I haven't always done the best I could, but that doesn't mean I won't take my recent reminders to heart and get busy with cache maintenance this Fall!

Looking ahead, cachers in southcentral Alaska will have yet another opportunity to participate in a HOBO CITO event series. Our sponsored portion of the Seward Highway just outside of Girdwood has another CITO event coming sometime soon – keep checking the 'new cache' listings for Alaska to see events and CITO opportunities near you, or better yet, configure your instant notifications to include Events of all kinds.

Based on logs I've seen in my own caches, many of you have risen to the 31 Days of August Geocaching Challenge. I've enjoyed this added incentive to make a daily effort to find at least one cache, and have seen an increasing number of new names on logsheets around my town. If you're a cache owner and you see a geocacher name you don't recognize in your emailed notice of finds, take time to drop them a brief note welcoming them to geocaching in Alaska. If I see a new cacher, I invite them to attend the next GeocacheAlaska! Inc. sponsored event so they can see us in action and meet fellow geocachers. During social small talk at a recently-attended wedding reception, I mentioned my need to get going and find a geocache after the reception. Imagine my surprise when another couple I'd known for years who happened to be sitting nearby spoke up and said "we've just started geocaching – tell us more about how you cache!" It was a great opportunity to talk not only about the game in general, but about GeocacheAlaska! Inc. and how it supports the local cacher through land manager advocacy, education, and social gatherings. Don't be shy about talking up the game you enjoy!

### Geofest Is Coming

Want an opportunity to help coordinate a fun event but not have to do it alone?

GeocacheAlaska!'s 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Geofest is December 13 and we are looking for someone to coordinate the event this year. The GeocacheAlaska! Board is here to help but we also need your help.

If you are interested, contact Roberta Bromlow (Polgera) at [polgera77@hotmail.com](mailto:polgera77@hotmail.com) or any one of the board members.





## Reviewer's Corner – Cache Sweeps

by Michael Malvick/Greatland Reviewer

On August 23, I sat down at the computer, queued up pocket queries to pull every cache in Alaska, and then used GSAK to filter all caches that have been temporarily disabled, have a string of did not finds (DNFs) after a consistent string of “found it” logs, and caches with the “Needs Maintenance” attribute. I chose this time to do so in order to give cachers time to fix up their caches before the snow flies and winter provides excuse for another six to eight months of inaction. I will perform another “sweep” four to six weeks from now and will archive those caches that have ongoing issues and for which there has been no Cache Owner response to the Reviewer Note. I know “life” gets in the way of Cache Maintenance, so I’m not requiring all caches to be fixed in the immediate near-term, but I do want Cache Owners to communicate to the caching community and me that they do intend to maintain their cache(s) at some point in the (hopefully not too distant) future.

On August 23, there were 109 temporarily disabled caches in Alaska. Caches disabled prior to August 1 received a Reviewer Note requesting the Cache Owner to post a note to the cache page to inform the caching community of their plans to reenable the cache or to archive the cache. I will check those caches again in late-September/early-October and archive those that have an absentee Cache Owner.

There were 307 caches with two or more consecutive DNF logs which I also looked at. I chose the relatively low threshold of two DNFs because so many cachers do not write DNF logs and many of started inappropriately using the “Needs Maintenance” log for an unsuccessful hunt. For these caches, I made a subjective call as to whether to post a Reviewer Note. More difficult caches that go through cycles of strings of “found it” and “did not find it” logs did not receive a Reviewer Note. Relatively easy caches that have a string of “found it” logs that is suddenly broken by a string of DNF logs received a Reviewer Note encouraging the Cache Owner to check on the cache and let the caching community know all is well with the cache or to perform maintenance. I will check those caches again in late-September/early-October and archive those that have an absentee Cache Owner.

Finally, I posted Reviewer Notes to the 526 Alaskan caches that have the “Needs Maintenance” attribute present on the cache page with instructions on how to clear the attribute if all is fine with the cache. In many cases, the caches are all right, but sometime in the past a cacher wrote a “Needs Maintenance” (NM) log to the page. The NM log causes the Needs Maintenance attribute (the white cross on a red

background ) to be posted on the cache page and the red wrench  to appear on the cache page summary. The attribute does not go away until the Cache Owner writes an “Owner Maintenance” log to the cache page. Clearing the Needs Maintenance attribute is good housekeeping because it communicates to the cache community that you are actively maintaining your cache(s). It also has the potential to

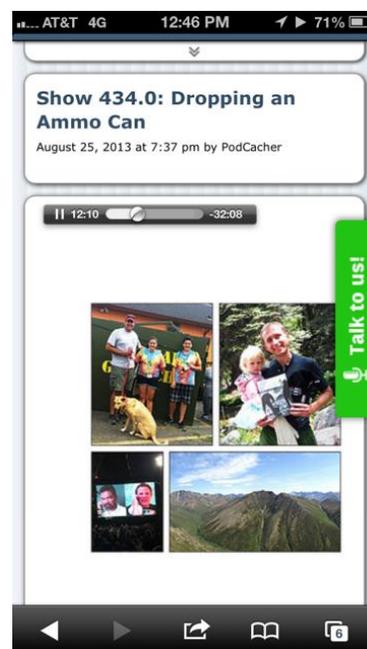
increase the number of cache visitors because some cachers filter out any cache with the Needs Maintenance attribute so they don’t hunt caches that aren’t maintained, especially when they are on vacation. Because the NM log is intended to provide a means for cachers to communicate to the Cache Owner without intervention by the local Reviewer or Groundspeak, I will not take further action on these caches (except, perhaps post another Reviewer Note reminder) unless there are other issues with the cache such as an uncharacteristic string of DNFs or a “Needs Archived” log.

One reason so many caches have the NM attribute is because some cachers are inappropriately using the NM log. Cachers should only use the NM log if they find the cache and it has issues (wet log, cracked container, full log, etc.). The NM log should NEVER be used if the cacher doesn’t find the cache because if the cacher hasn’t actually seen the cache, the cacher can’t possibly know if the cache needs maintenance. If you don’t find a cache, the correct log type to choose is the “Did Not Find” log.

## Podcacher Features a Dropped Ammo Can

Eagle River cacher [akerdoc](#) was interviewed on [Podcacher](#) about his first to find of [ColorReido Drops an Ammo Can](#), GC42D67. The show may be found [here](#). The story begins about twelve minutes into the program. ColorReido’s log on [Oil and Army](#) that led to the placement of this cache is featured in detail.

The show also features tips for safe caching, cemetery caches, old caches, adopted caches, Jens Voigt (pro bicyclist) geocaching during tours, and much more.



## Call for GeocacheAlaska! 2014 Board Member Nominations

The GeocacheAlaska! 2014 Nominating Committee will be working during the next several weeks to compile a ballot for election of the 2014 Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is [Michael Malvick](#)/Ladybug Kids (chair), [Victoria Noble](#)/Blazingpathways, [Tony Roof](#)/firemanak, and [Cameron Gilchrist](#)/AlaskaCariboozer.

The nominating process and schedule is:

September 15-October 15: Accept nominations and explain Director accountabilities to nominees. Nominees prepare a Statement of Purpose detailing why they are running for a position and describing relevant experience. Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by another cacher by posting in the [Nominations for 2014 Board of Directors](#) thread of the GeocacheAlaska! forums or e-mailing a member of the Nominating Committee.

October 15-October 22: Proposed ballot submitted to GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors.

November 1-November 15: Online elections held via SurveyMonkey.com.

GeocacheAlaska! Inc. is a cacher/member-driven organization. The GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors sets the agenda for the organization so it aligns with the mission defined in the [By-laws](#). Members of the Board use their time on the Board to improve the Alaskan caching experience for all cachers.

The GeocacheAlaska! Board of Directors is looking for geocachers who enjoy all things geocaching and are ready to give back to the game from which they have obtained so much enjoyment. Do you or someone you know have the qualities it takes to be a successful Board member?

Attributes of successful Board members include:

1. *Enthusiastic*. Is the cacher gung-ho about geocaching and most everything geocaching?
2. *Team-oriented*. Does the cacher have an established track record of working effectively as a member of a team?
3. *Helpful*. Will this cacher bring a “how can I help” attitude?
4. *Communicative*. Can the cacher effectively communicate verbally and in writing?
5. *Self-starting*. Can this cacher recognize the need for something to be done and jump right in to get it done?
6. *Inquisitive*. Will the cacher ask clarifying questions if they don’t understand something? Is the cacher eager to learn?
7. *Assertive*. Will the cacher provide feedback on most topics and push back or speak up if they don’t agree with part of a discussion or a decision?
8. *Reliable*. Can the cacher be counted on to attend Board of Directors meetings and to routinely (at least every two or three days) check forum threads and e-mail and provide feedback or vote as needed? Can the cacher be counted on to complete tasks they volunteer to do or are assigned by the President?
9. *Business-minded*. Will the cacher bring business-savvy to the Board and be able to make decisions based on what is best for the organization rather than what may be easiest or most popular?
10. *Computer savvy*. Does the cacher know enough about computers and/or smart phones to use the on-line resources required of Board members (forums, website, e-mail, vendor sites, etc.)?

Members of the Board of Directors have the following duties specified in the GeocacheAlaska! [By-laws](#):

**President** shall:

- Preside over all Association meetings and Board of Director meetings.
- Cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie during voting at Business Meetings.
- Sign contracts and agreements on behalf of GeAK!
- Appoint members as necessary to perform the tasks agreed upon by the Board.

**Vice President** shall:

- Perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- Make arrangements for scheduling meeting dates and locations.
- Supervise the Nominating Committee.
- Tabulate ballots for all GeAK! elections.

**Treasurer shall:**

- Be responsible for all income and expenses.
- Keep accurate financial records.
- Make timely deposits of all monies received.
- Bill all those who owe money to GeAK!
- Pay duly authorized expenses.
- Make available financial records to GeAK! for inspection and audit.
- Recommend a budget to the Board.
- Recommend appropriate changes in the dues structure.
- Make an annual report to the members at the first/last Business Meeting each year.
- Maintain a ledger describing GeAK! property.
- Send out membership renewal notices in a timely manner.
- File required annual paperwork to maintain nonprofit status

**Secretary shall:**

- Record minutes of all Business Meetings, General Membership Meetings, and Executive Committee Meetings.
- Maintain a file of legal documents and licenses of GeAK!, past minutes, newsletter archives and other official documents.
- Record and receive all copies of contracts and agreements consummated by GeAK!
- Provide written notice of the date, time and location of meetings to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meetings, including, as needed, notice of proposed bylaw changes and elections to fill vacancies on the Board.
- Maintain a list of members, officers, Members-at-Large, and committee members.
- Conduct and respond to correspondence as required.
- Provide for the publication of the monthly newsletter of GeAK!
- Act as registered agent for GeAK!

**Webmaster shall:**

- Manage content on the GeAK! Website.
- Manage the GeAK! forums.
- Maintain domain status and GeAK! forums.

**Members at Large shall:**

- Facilitate event planning.
- Facilitate regional geocacher involvement.
- Assist other members of the Executive Board where needed.
- Serve on standing committees (currently Advocacy, Education and Outreach, Events, and Fundraising)

Board members shall be Sourdough members of GeocacheAlaska! and have an account with geocaching.com.

The minimum time commitment for a Board Member is attendance in person or via conference line at one Board of Directors Meeting a month, usually, but not always, on the third Thursday. Most meetings are usually one-hour long and held prior to the monthly GeocacheAlaska! Eduvent. The January and Summer meetings sometimes run longer. On-line time commitments vary by member, but range from one to two hours per week on average for review of emails and Board discussions/votes in the forum.

The Board of Directors recently amended Article VI of the By-laws to establish two-year staggered terms of office:

*A Board Member's term in office shall be two calendar years and serve until duly replaced. Board Members may be re-elected every two years. The President, Secretary and Webmaster shall be elected to terms beginning in even-numbered years. The Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected to terms beginning in odd-numbered years. Two Members at*

*Large shall be elected to terms beginning in even-numbered years and two shall be elected to terms beginning in odd-numbered years.*

The 2014 election will be conducted to create the stagger by electing a full Board. The President, Secretary and Webmaster and two Members at Large will be elected for two-year terms and are up for election again for the term beginning in 2016. The Vice President, Treasurer, and two Members at Large will be elected for one-year terms and are up for election again for the term beginning in 2015.

## **2014 GeocacheAlaska! Calendar Photo Contest!** *By Scott Aleckson/SSO JOAT*

It is time to submit your photos to the annual calendar photo contest! The deadline for photo submissions is the end of September. All photo submissions will be posted on our website in October and then an online survey will be distributed by email for voting on your favorites. The winners will be placed in our 2014 Calendar, which should be available for purchase somewhere between Thanksgiving and GeoFest.

A rule adjustment for this year has increased the number of photos you may submit up to 4 per category. The categories remain the same as last year. We need to have high resolution images for the calendar, so please send the highest quality image files that you have available. As a general rule, the photo should have been taken with a digital camera that has at least 3.2 megapixels of resolution and the image should be no smaller than 1000 pixels on its longest dimension and 700 pixels on its shortest dimension. Photos that do not meet resolution requirements may be rejected from the calendar contest, though they will still be used in the GeoFest slide show and in the online gallery of our website.

All calendar contest photos **MUST** have been taken in Alaska! They **MUST** be associated with a specific geocache, though any cache type is allowed and the cache has to have been published, but it does not need to be currently active. It is up to the submitter to pick the category that the photo is being entered into and we request that you come up with a title or caption for your photo, but keep it light and pithy.

When you submit your photos, please include a message in the body of your email that includes the following information:

- Photographer's real name**
- Photographer's geo-nickname (Geocaching.com username)**
- Contest category**
- The GC# of the geocache associated with, or nearest to the photo location**
- The names and/or geo-nicknames of any recognizable people in the photo**

The categories for the photo contest are:

- Adventure (Extreme)**
- Children**
- Containers**
- Flora**
- People**
- Places**
- Whimsy (Fun)**
- Wildlife**
- Winter**

Send your photos by email with only ONE photo per message. Begin the subject line of your messages with **[PHOTO CONTEST]** followed by the contest category to help us sort out the messages as they come in. If there is any of the above information missing from your email, you will receive one request to submit the required information. Failure to provide all the requested information will result in your entry being rejected from the contest, though all photos received will still be put in the GeoFest slide show.

If you have vacation photos or additional photos that you wish to submit for the GeoFest slide show, send them to the same email but start the subject line with **[SLIDE SHOW]**. No categories are needed, but we would still like to know who took the picture, where (GC#), and who is pictured in the image.

The email address to use for all photo submissions is [photocontest@geocachealaska.org](mailto:photocontest@geocachealaska.org)



## Fall Hobo CITO Camp & Clean coming October 5-6! *By Scott Aleckson/SSO JOAT*

Still in the planning phase, but we are going to run another HOB0 CITO weekend to end the summer caching season. If you missed out on our last HOB0 CITO series from Homer to Girdwood, go have a look at the listings and logs for the 7 Events that were held the weekend of May 17-19 starting with [GC4AR47](#). Each cache listing has shortcut links to all events in the series, so you can follow the HOB0s from Homer all the way up the road. It was a great deal of fun and we did some major cleaning along the way. Go check out the photo galleries!

A shorter version of the series is currently being planned in the [GeocacheAlaska! Forums](#) on the Events and CITO board. If you have any ideas or wish to help, please jump into the discussion. All input is welcomed as more voices help bring our geocaching community together to create some really fun event series.

As of this writing, our plan is to start off this series on Saturday mid-morning, October 7 in Girdwood for our final Adopt-A-Highway cleanup for the year. After a couple hours at that site, the group is going to head down to Turnagain Pass where we are going to do a “leap frog” cleaning of several trailheads and pullouts from the top of the Pass down to Moose Pass. The Saturday night campsite is still to be determined as all the Chugach National Forest campgrounds will be closed after Labor Day. The current thinking is that we may just run all the way into Seward on Saturday night and have a big campout over there. On Sunday morning, we’ll get up (get coffee) and proceed to have another CITO event in Seward. This HOB0 series will conclude with a lunch social event somewhere in Seward (TBD), after which we’ll break off and do some geocaching before heading back home.

Keep an eye out for the event listings to publish as soon as the details and locations are nailed down. Again, we’d love to have some help in getting this series up and running, so feel free to jump into the Forums and contribute to the planning phase. Hope to see you out there, and make sure you bring a waterproof tent and a warm sleeping bag!



## International Geocaching Day on the shores of Lake Spenard by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

August 17, 2013 was designated as “International Geocaching Day” by Groundspeak as a way to encourage geocachers across the globe to get outside on one particular day in large numbers to celebrate the game of geocaching. There were several events of note around the state celebrating this day, including the “[International Geocaching Day – Spenard 2-fer](#)” event held at noon on the shores of lovely Lake Spenard. More than two dozen folks (some from as far away as Washington DC) gathered to earn a smiley, a special souvenir on their cache pages, and have a good time socializing in the midst of the 31 Days of August geocaching challenge. As the event host arrived and set up, the rain stopped falling and the skies cleared (a weather break that lasted all afternoon!) This good omen was to be expected as a byproduct of involving the Spenard Vortex in a geocaching event (see the [Post-Apocalyptic Hibernial Solstice Gathering Event Page](#) for prior occurrences of good fortune during interactions with the Spenard Vortex). For cachers who found themselves unable to attend Groundspeak’s fabulous Block Party event (set in Fremont, a Seattle neighborhood designated as the Center of the Universe) this gathering on the shores of Lake Spenard was a great opportunity to enjoy a scenic social break amidst the hustle and bustle of a typical Anchorage Saturday. Best prize of the day was the DNF cupcake AW-ak saved from the prior night’s Cupcake Event as a souvenir of sorts for this event’s host (NorthWes), since he couldn’t attend the festivities at Friday midnight in downtown Anchorage. In addition to meeting several out of state cachers, attendees were introduced to a pair of new canine caching companions (Tank and Zoey) whom I expect we’ll see much of in the future. Thankfully the rain left behind several puddles for our younger members to amuse themselves in as an alternative to playing in Lake Spenard. Puddlers, puppies and a great social vibe – that’s how Lake Spenard saw us celebrate International Geocaching Day!



## The Best Father's Day Present Ever! by Bill Van Couwenberghe/AlaskaVans



For my Father's Day present, the rest of the AlaskaVans made all of the arrangements for me to go Seattle for the 2013 Geocaching Block Party (GC3X684) and Going APE 2013 (GC46Z3E) Mega Event. They tried to arrange for me to be on one of the guided tours of HQ on Friday, but that did not work out. That turned into a blessing as I was able to arrange to meet up with blazingpathways and tomanoble to make a pilgrimage to the Original Cache Site Plaque and complete an un-official Triad (the official Triad is the Original Cache Site (GCGV0P), Headquarters (GCK25B) and the original Project A.P.E. cache Mission 9: Tunnel of Light (GC1169)).

After arriving in Seattle on Friday morning, I picked up the rental car and headed to my sister's condo to pick up the key. I then proceeded to pick up blazingpathways and tomanoble at their hotel. We had lunch and then headed out for what was supposed to be a 3 ½ hour journey. While on I-5 in Tacoma, the rental car's a warning popped up on the dashboard stating that one of the tires was low on pressure. Not wanting to take any chances, we got off the next exit and found a gas station. As we were putting air into the tire, we could hear a hissing sound. A piece of metal had punctured the tire. I called the toll-free road side assistance number for the rental car company, only to be on hold for way too much time. So, we changed the tire to the spare (which was one of those small temporary ones) and found on the GPSr what we thought was a rental car office nearby. Turned out to be a hotel (the info on the GPSr seemed to be out of date). So we pulled into the next gas station and asked if there was a car rental place nearby. They knew of none. So we looked up the phone number in the yellow pages for the car rental company and I called it. I got to a person, who then put me through to roadside assistance and the perpetual hold. Being a bit annoyed at the rental car company now, we set-out to find a tire place to do the repair for us. Luckily there was one up the block: Discount Tire. We arrived to find that we had to wait for at about 1 ½ hours for the repair. So we left the tire and went caching in the neighborhood (what else would a group of cachers do to kill time?). One of which was located a block off Alaska Street! We returned to Discount Tire after an hour and found that we were next in line. They fixed the tire and mounted it for us. The best part was the price! They did not charge me. I was so thankful. We piled back into the car and headed back into the traffic of 15 – 20 miles an hour. Once we passed Olympia, traffic thinned out and we were able to do the speed limit. We arrived at GCGV0P right around 8:00 pm. I wondered if I should take off my shoes as I approached the plaque. Was I about to walk on holy ground? I spared my partners the smell and left them on. We took pictures and charged our GPSrs with good vibes by placing them on the plaque. With the light of day fading, we found five caches on our way back to the main road. We stopped to eat pizza at 9:00 pm and then headed back to Seattle. This time, it was a three-hour drive with nothing eventful happening. We were back by 1:00 am Saturday. A tad bit tired, but very happy.



 Saturday morning, I received some driving assistance from my sister's boyfriend as to the best route to take from Tukwila to Fremont. I arrived about an hour before the block party was to start. It was my first block party/mega event. So I did not know what to expect. I made my way to the square and started to mingle. I was meeting cachers from all over the world, writing down trackable numbers (jotted down about 150 to log, of which I am still logging as I write this), and trading path tags. I bumped into cavyguy, then into Ladybug Kids, and finally One Spirit 555 while waiting for the group photo. After milling around a bit, I met up with blazingpathways, tomanoble and cavyguy and the four of us were off to find the 9 geocaches on the Geocaching passport and the 7 labworks caches (these were something new and were temporary for the Block Party only). Along the way we continued to meet cachers from all over, including WenCh86 and AvnxScout, both are Sourdough Members who live in California. While we were working on one of the multi-caches, one of the cachers in the crowd recognized my voice. He was one of the Geocruisers that had just been to Alaska. I could not believe that he would remember my voice. We also met friends of cavyguy from other mega events, including a pair that joined us for a good portion of the trip. There was a lot of walking, but it was fun doing it. As we were approaching the last cache for us to log, we ran into glenfish, fyshstyx and AKjoey. We finished and were back to the block party square by 4:00 pm. We then went our separate ways.





My sister and her boyfriend joined me to go to the mega event on Sunday. We decided to leave early to be able to find a parking place. We arrived way too early to wait around for the event to start. So we headed through the tunnel to do the caches first. Found Bloody Fingers, Dirty Diapers... (GCJMDK) in the tunnel (this one required the use of the hints as the GPSr lost the satellite signal shortly into the tunnel). Once through the tunnel, I found one of the oldest in Washington, Iron Horse (GC79). Not given the helpful hint that there was an easier trail up the the cache, I bush wacked my way up the hill. I took the trail back down. Then we were off to Mission 9: Tunnel of Light Reclaimed (GC300N0) and the completion of the un-official Triad. By this time, I felt like I was walking on clouds. As we were heading back through the tunnel, I heard a voice call out "Is that the AlaskaVans?" It was blazingpathways. She was on her way through the tunnel in the opposite direction along with tomanoble. We said "hi" and congratulated each other for completing our missions. Once through the tunnel, I picked up my swag I pre-ordered, signed the log (which was on the ape!), and headed back to town for lunch and to get ready to return to Alaska.



The weather was beautiful the whole time. The time spent with the rest of the Alaska cachers really made the weekend what it was: a success!! I don't think I would have enjoyed it as nearly as much as I did without caching with them. Thank you to everyone there that made it special and to my family for sending me on the trip!

### International Geocaching Day "...in the Banks" by HalMeyer/liquidearth

Great weather welcomed more people than I can count on my fingers and toes to a fantastic International Geocaching Day on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at the Chena River Recreation Site in Fairbanks.

The club provided mass quantities of health-conscious tube steaks, burgers and buns while members brought a wide variety of side dishes to satisfy even the most discerning palates. Richard Machida, Rmachida, manned the grill which produced a frown on our local Ronald McDonald statue's face *'cause they were so good!* Thanks, Richard!

FiremanAK was overwhelmed by rabid shoppers when he laid out "the store" on a picnic bench. Fortunately, with his experience as a fireman, he was able to maintain crowd control and keep the looky-loos at bay. He reported stellar sales and high customer satisfaction. Thanks FiremanAK!

Ruth and Chuck, 22Wrangler, who are "sorta from South Dakota", stayed a couple of extra days in the campground just to attend our event. Their home is a RV and has been so for the last 10 years. Everyone was impressed by their over 20,000+ finds and their cache-a-day string of 2-years running. Chuck was pretty worried that when they got past Tok their string might be broken. Like any good geocacher though, he did his homework on the location of caches between Tok and Haines, their next destination. I haven't checked on their progress but in the short, wonderful time they spent with us, we're all hoping that string will stretch a lot longer. Good Luck to 22Wrangler. We enjoyed your visit!



Iron-hide2 took the opportunity to hide a cache during the event. From my recent attempt at finding this cache I feel obligated to warn others that Iron-hide2 has inherited the evilness of FiremanAK. You Evil, Iron-hide2! Great hide!

From all reports, everyone got their fill of food, fun, finds and friendships to last just long enough until the next event! Thanks to everyone who attended for coming out and making this such a great International Geocaching Day! Hope to see everyone the next time!

# GEOCACHE ALASKA! INC.

Exploring the Last Frontier • [www.geocachealaska.org](http://www.geocachealaska.org)



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Follow GeocacheAlaska! Inc. on [Facebook!](#) Stay in touch and share your activities with fellow members of the geocaching community by visiting our [page](#) and clicking 'Like'. Stay tuned for more Facebook fun as our webmaster develops a new Facebook Group page 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.

## 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 four ways you can join GeocacheAlaska! at the Sourdough level for \$20/year.

1. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) and click on the "Subscribe" button to set up an automatic subscription which will renew annually. Please enter your caching name in the provided box.
2. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) and click on "Add to Cart" to purchase an annual membership that will run through December 31, 2013.
3. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! [webpage](#) to download a membership form you can print and mail with your payment.
4. 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. GeocacheAlaska! on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/GeocacheAlaska-Inc/180089884756>
4. E-mail to [contact@geocachealaska.org](mailto:contact@geocachealaska.org)
5. Interior Alaska Geocachers: <http://alaskageocachers.org/>

## STATE PARKS PERMITS

Remember, if you want to hide a cache in a State Park, you may need a permit number for your cache page and the geocache. The 2013 permit number for the Chugach State Park is **13-KA-1289** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page. The 2013 permit number for the Mat-Su State Parks is **S12-061** and it must be on the cache container. Downloadable copies of the permits can be obtained from the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Manager webpage](#) or the GeocacheAlaska! [Land Use Forums](#).

## 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](#).

*The editors of "Around the State" would like to hear from you. Submit articles or suggestions to [newsletter@geocachealaska.org](mailto:newsletter@geocachealaska.org)  
Subject: Around the State.*