

# Geocachers of West Tennessee

Newsletter

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*Happy New Year!*

## FEATURED CACHER PROFILE: Chimps8mybaby

### 1) How did you come up with your caching name?

Wow, I've never been asked this one before 😊 . When I first got a computer, I needed an online name. I tried a few but never settled on one. After a few months, I was brainstorming (mostly a dust storm) and I happened to look at a stack of albums by my chair. Right on top was Frank Zappas "weasels ripped my flesh". I thought that'd be a good nick, but it was too many letters. Drat. For some reason, a standup routine by Robert Klein popped into my head. I remembered him talking about Jane Goodall and her work with chimps, and that she'd found that they were cannibalistic. He started in by saying "Can you imagine going to the circus and its like "awwwwwww,



look at the chimpanzees riding the bikes! So cute!!" and "awwwww, look at the chimps, they're doing somersaults!!!" and "ohhhhh, now the chimps are playing musical instruments. How cool!" and "awwwww...wait, THEY'RE EATING MY BABY!!!!!!AIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE", so I guess it's because of a collision of Zappa and Klein in my tiny little brain that my nick originated. I'd had it for probably 10 years or so when I signed up at geocaching.com. People are still shaking their heads , as I'm sure some of you are now.

### 2) How did you learn about geocaching?

I had heard about geocaching in magazines and television, but in my mind it was the hobby of gadget fiends somewhere else. In September of '07 I took a GIS course to learn arcpad. The first night we were discussing GPS and the teacher mentioned geocaching. At break he passed a few cache pages around that he had printed. After reading a couple, I knew that was something I had to try. I couldn't believe there was actually one in Senatobia (GCP6CK). The next morning I stopped by there to look for it but the only thing I came up with was some unidentifiable lump of metal and wire that wouldn't open. I caught the teacher that morning and he basically said "Its hanging on a nail on the back wall dummy". So at noon I was off to the truck stop



again and there it was, a metal pill fob. The moment I put pen to paper, I was hooked. That afternoon, I stopped in Coldwater and found my 1st ammo can (GCB6D2) and I haven't stopped yet (except for a few weeks on crutches).

### **3) What do you do for a living?**

I have been at Northwest Mississippi Community College for 22 years. Let me see, my card says Plumbing/Underground Utilities Supervisor, so I guess that's what I am. I just tell people that I'm a grunt.

### **4) Your favorite cache?**

My favorite cache is usually the last one I found. There are some that stick out in my mind that I've really enjoyed. Standing at the top of "Boondocks Overlook" by lamdale with my heart pounding on New Years Day is one. William65s' "The Xperiment" is another due to the work he put into it. I was really impressed. The night caches and the caches that I've found in the Ozarks stand out also. I really like finding the oldies.

### **5) Any unique caching experience?**

There are several. Stepping on a water moccasin while wearing flip-flops was quite the experience. Seeing pcean do the ratsnake dance on our tour around herb parsons was another. Kayaking down the Ghost river with Bitbrain , Tiger130, fletchWL, Pippin98, and the rest of our group on my 1st geo-anniversary AND getting a fff was a thrill. I'm still embarrassed about loaning my canoe, the "Titanic II", to some of the group. The kayak trips down the Mississippi river with netinator are high on my list also. I'm seeing a pattern here where the unique caches were mostly in the company of the friendly, welcoming, unique, people I have met since I started geocaching. It has been an honor to be included in the activities that I've experienced so far with the geocachers in this area.

## **Jeffbouldin will host the 'Cause it beats sitting in a hotel room' event.**

A cacher from Middle Tennessee who routinely visits GOWT area will host a event on January 6, 2009 at the Central BBQ in Memphis at 6:00 pm. The coordinates are N 35° 08.8983', W 89° 54.9073' and the event page on gc.com is **GC1K1QC**. Lets have a great turnout!

## **Cache of the month: Tigrett Bottom (GC19N2R) by Turndaround**

**By Titansfan**

One of the difficult caches in the GOWT region, this cache requires special equipment, where a watercraft is needed. The lake is maintained by TWRA, where a fishing license and fishing equipment is required. The lake is in a remote area and there are no boat rentals available. Last spring, I purchased an inflatable kayak from Wal-Mart. Pharmd93 joined me and we paddled out way to the cache. This was the maiden voyage of the kayak, my second time on this type of boat and Pharmd93's first time in a kayak. It was an adventure fighting the wind and trying to stay on course. In the end, we found the cache and paddled back to the landing area.

# **2009 will see a new Leadership Committee; Advisory Committee Also Changes**

Leaving the committee are Prontopup and Titansfan, being replaced by Itcomagic and Tiger130. Current members remaining on the Leadership Committee in 2009 are Hoot Owl, Abiectio, and pcsenn. Lets all support the 2009 LC as we did in 2008.

The Advisory Committee members for 2009 will be: Tinksdad01; Tiger130; Itcomagic; adonis32; Hoot Owl; pcsenn; Pharm93; Gibbenator; minismiths; Prontopup; and Abiectio.

## **A NOTE FROM THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**By Prontopup**

It seems like no time has passed since we were welcoming 2008 at the GOWT annual meeting at Bozo's Bar-B-Q. Yet it already is 2009 and we are looking forward to another gathering at Bozo's soon!

None of us could have guessed what 2008 brought. Who would have thought that we would have record high and low gas prices within the same calendar year? No one could have foreseen the ups and downs of the economy. 2008 saw many milestones reached by many cachers. Exciting new caches were hidden (and found). The year included float trips, treasure hunts, and geo-events in the snow. It included welcoming many new cachers and saying so long to some old friends.

What will 2009 bring? It will include making new friends and enjoying the company of old ones. It will include challenges and fun events, including Geowoodstock in Tennessee. So get out of your seat, get off the sideline, and join in the game! We look forward to caching with all of you in 2009. Happy New Year and happy caching!

# About GEOCACHERS OF WEST TENNESSEE

GOWT is intended to be a family-friendly organization whose purpose is to promote geocaching in West Tennessee in a positive manner. We seek to welcome and respect the diversity of our membership and at the same time adhere to the principles expressed in the Geocacher's Creed which GOWT members helped to develop.

The organization shall strive to develop, through membership, an interest in and appreciation of the West Tennessee Area as related to the use of its natural and wild greenspace, parks, and recreation areas for our outdoor recreation and activities pertaining and related to geocaching, benchmarking, waymarking, and GPS usage, and to cooperate with other organizations that are working toward the conservation, preservation, and development of wilderness areas and recreational parks and greenspace.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to an edition of the newsletter, please send an email to:

[newsletter@gowt.org](mailto:newsletter@gowt.org)

## **The Leadership Committee for 2009:**

**Abiectio, Hoot Owl, Pcsenn, Tiger130 & Itcomagic**

*Many Thanks to Titansfan for the outstanding job he has done as editor of this newsletter throughout much of 2008!!*