



# Geocachers of West Tennessee

The GOWT Newsletter is published monthly for the enjoyment of the members.

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August 2007

## Message From the President

August was another great month for GOWT! Even with the seemingly unrelenting heat we held another successful event and many members were able to reach milestones. This month also marks the return of our monthly cacher profile.

As always, enjoy the newsletter and remember – if there is anything you would like to see in future newsletters or if you would like to contribute a story, send an e-mail to:

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

Sincerely,

Hoot Owl

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## Perseid Meteor Shower Event a Success

On Sunday night, August 12th, GOWT members gathered to attend [The Perseid Meteor Shower](#) by minismiths and 76Stinger (GC14MDA) The event was held just outside of a racetrack in Atoka, TN and started around 8pm.



It was a fairly hot day but by evening had cooled enough where the temperature was not a problem. Several impromptu teams formed to hunt the nearby cache [A.R.P. "Can you Fathom This?"](#) by minismiths (GC150RN). The hunt for this multi-stage cache was made more interesting by the fact it was dark. There were a couple of other interesting new caches placed around the area for this event that several people found before and after the event.

Several people traveled a significant distance to attend this event and we were glad to see everybody. Pcsenn drove all the way from Troy, TN to attend the event and present Hoot Owl with the original GOWT banner he recently retrieved. The banner was handed over to 76Stinger who will proudly display it at an event he is hosting next month.

Many people were too engaged in conversation to pay attention the meteor shower but everyone managed to see a few impressive flashes of light moving quickly across the sky. It was amazing how brief the flashes were – most only visible for a few seconds.

Several sponsors generously provided door prizes that were distributed in a drawing. Many people won poison ivy wash/block which they appreciated! GirlInFilm won a space pen which she later lost in the dark while hunting a nearby cache.

PoohBear94 went by the site the next day and found it for her.



The turnout was great - especially given that it was held late Sunday evening/early Monday morning. There were probably many sleepyheads at work on Monday.

Hoot Owl was among the last to leave at roughly 1:10am after helping to clean up the area.

GOWT wishes to express its thanks to Shawn and Tammy of minismiths and 76Stinger for putting on an excellent nighttime event! Thanks as well go out to the many members and guests who spent the evening with us!

## Prontopup Donates New Members-Only Cache to GOWT

Early on in the history of GOWT (March 2005) Spencersb created a members-only cache that was intended to be moved around the GOWT region by its membership. A person would find it, put a signature item in it and soon afterwards place it at a new location and post the coordinates on the GOWT forum in a thread set up for that purpose. Over the next two years, this cache moved to many different parts of the area served by GOWT. A few members may have even moved it more than once!

Recently it was noticed that the whereabouts of the cache had not been updated in several months. A brief attempt was made to track down its last known location. When it appeared that further investigation was only going to stir up trouble, Prontopup created a new container and placed it in a Collierville park where it was found within days and moved on. Tiger130, after a good deal of searching, was the first finder. She brought it to the Perseid

Meteor Shower event for others to see and place their signature items in. At the time of this story, it is in the hands of minismiths.

GOWT wishes to thank Prontopup for restarting the members-only cache and hopes this cache will remain in circulation for years to come!

## Missing GOWT Items Replaced, Members Later Recover Originals

Earlier in the year it was necessary to purchase a new banner in order to have one available in time for the 2007 GOWT CITO in Bartlett Park. The new banner has been used in most of this year's events but it was desired that the original one be returned in order to use at future events. Much time and effort was spent by several GOWT members in attempting to recover the original banner with no success until recently. In August, Pcsenn was able to pick up the banner from the person holding it and it was delivered to Hoot Owl at an event this month. We appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in the recovery process of the original banner! It was turned over to 76Stinger and will make its grand reappearance at Munford Celebrate on September 15th.

Another item that had been missing for many months was the laminator used to make GOWT membership cards. We have had many new members join GOWT in the last several months and GOWT had delayed making the membership cards because the Executive Committee had hoped to recover the laminator. After months passed, and we finally learned how relatively inexpensive laminators are, Cgeek generously purchased and donated to GOWT a brand-new laminator. She recently used the new laminator to make cards for the members who were without them. Some of the cards have been mailed out and others will be

distributed to members at future GOWT events.

On August 18, Prontopup and Tiger130 were able to retrieve the original laminator while at an event that the holder of the laminator was in attendance.

The future of the original laminator is uncertain. It may be used as a backup for the new laminator. Several members suggested that the Executive Committee make a travel bug out of it.

GOWT wishes to thank Prontopup and Tiger130 for retrieving the laminator as well as the individuals who purchased a replacement banner and laminator!

## Many Milestones Were Reached in August

The following milestones were reached in August (a couple may have been in July):

cgeek - 2200 (?)  
 chibongo - 2100 (7/28)  
 Mackheath - 2000 (8/4)  
 prontopup - 1100 (7/28)  
 jbgreer - 900 (8/11)  
 searchingforit - 900 (8/7)  
 jimmylogan & B@shful - 700 (8/25)  
 Sprout - 600 (8/25)  
 Tiger130 - 500 (8/12)  
 Abiectio - 500 (7/28?)  
 Leigh421 - 400 (8/12)  
 psychicash - 400 (8/12)  
 FamilyInFilm - 200 (8/12)  
 Salamander60 - 200 (8/20)  
 - this group includes Sweet Thang and Lil Sal  
 PoohBear94 - 100 (8/20)

rom10vs9 - 100 (7/23)  
 G-T-Martin - 100 (8/19?)

Those cachers who recently reached the 100 or 500 cache milestone will hopefully receive recognition at the next GOWT event! Now that the weather is about to cool down we expect to see a lot more caching out of these folks!

## Upcoming GOWT Events

September 15, 2007: [Geocaching At Munford Celebrate](#) by 76Stinger (GC14B4V)

For the past 21 years, **Celebrate Munford** has sponsored the Munford Arts & Crafts Fair in September. The fair is a day-long event that is held in the downtown area of Munford, TN and features vending areas for local artists to sell and show off their works. It also features two entertainment stages, featuring music and dancing. GOWT will have a booth to promote geocaching both through promotional literature as well as live demonstrations. Geocoins and travel bugs are also expected to be on display. There are also numerous caches in the area so sign-up and plan to have fun!

## In Next Month's Newsletter

It's hard to say what will show up in the next newsletter. We will work harder to provide cacher profiles. If anyone wants to know more about a particular cacher, let us know and we will try to do a profile on them.

On July 21st, an event hosted by GOWT, DeltaGeo, MS Geocachers Association and Deep South Geocachers at Enid Lake Pavillion in Mississippi. Many GOWT members attended and we will try to provide a report on the fun that was had! (I had hoped to write up this story for this month but got busy.)



## Cacher Profile of the Month: Mackheath

I hunted my first cache on November 26, 2004. I had read about geocaching before, but it took my good friend jbgreer calling me up at work, telling me about his new GPSr (a Garmin Vista) and some geocaches located in the area, to get me started.

The first cache we hunted was Overton Park Magnetic Wood!?! by Spencersb (GCKAX7). After much searching by jbgreer and myself – we didn't really know what we were looking for, I got lucky and found it. We hunted a few other caches that day and after exploring geocaching.com and seeing how many caches were in my area, I created an account and went cache-crazy. I won't bore you with the details of how I picked my geo-name, but I would recommend to anyone interested in choosing a login name for geocaching.com or anywhere else to "google" the name first. You may be surprised what you find out! Although I have a strong technical background, my caching setup is relatively primitive. I use GSAK on a PC to manage pocket queries and Plucker on a Palm Z31 to view cache pages out in the field. I am not completely paperless, yet. One of these days I will apply myself to come up with the most complex technological setup the world has ever seen! Today, though, I will stick with what works for me. Wearing my glasses would help me find caches easier.

I found my 100<sup>th</sup> cache on the day of the founding meeting of GOWT. That day I became a founding member of GOWT and even though we have gone through rough times, I do not regret my decision to join and I remain a proud member to this day.

I enjoy caching with others. Besides my primary caching partner, jbgreer, I have hunted with a few others as well. I think Titansfan is the first person I cached with that I hadn't met previously

before our first caching trip to Land Between the Lakes. He has since become a trusted friend. I have made a lot of great friends through geocaching.



After finding more than 1000 caches with my trusty eTrex Legend, I broke down and bought a 60csx with maps. I enjoy the auto-routing capability and the larger screen of the 60csx as well as the improved reception. Upon reflection, however, I think the new eTrex Legend cx would have been a better choice for me. It is more compact which is useful to people like me who hunt in muggle-rich environs. I like most types of caches, but admit after finding hundreds of simple "Park and Grabs", that type rarely excites me anymore. Sometimes they will surprise me, though! I enjoy puzzle caches – even the ones I can't solve without help.

I like to cache while traveling. Every summer I drive from Tennessee to Oregon to visit my family. This gives me not only a chance to cache, but an opportunity to stop in small towns all across America and actually learn. What used to be a 2 ½ day drive now takes 4 days, but it is definitely worth it! Speaking of family, I love caching with my family. I gave up trying to contain my Mom's excitement when she finds a cache! My Dad likes to go caching in the mountains and it is a great opportunity to spend quality time with him. My youngest brother enjoys caching, too, in the same mountains he likes to hunt and fish in.

# Cacher Profile of the Month: Mackheath



I enjoy participating in GOWT a lot! This year I was flattered to be asked to edit the GOWT newsletter. This will be the third one I have done and I hope to get better as I go along.

I have recently found my 2000th cache and plan to slow down a bit. I would like to devote more time to contributing to the success of GOWT through the development of educational tools to help new members learn about geocaching without having to find out so many things the hard way. I'd like to play around more with interesting hide techniques. I have adopted several caches over the last two years and would like to create a few as well.

I am constantly seeking ways to make geocaching more fun for me. Since I like to run, I often clip my old blue Legend to my running belt and head out. One day I ran nearly 22 miles and found 4 caches. Those caches were Park and Grabs made more fun by getting some exercise at the same time. I would try caching by bicycle if Memphis streets were a little more bike-friendly.



In March of this year I started my own geocaching blog – [unclemack.blogspot.com](http://unclemack.blogspot.com) for sharing stories of my adventures as well as venting frustrations.

Other members of GOWT have started blogs as well and I enjoy reading all of them! Many of my favorites are linked from mine.



# About Geocachers of West Tennessee

Welcome to Geocachers of West Tennessee!

Our members are helping something that will benefit our great hobby, its devoted participants, and the land owners and managers we work with to make our hobby better. Our goal is to promote responsible geocaching, both by hunters and hiders. We will work with local authorities and land owners to ensure access to as much public land as possible.

We also participated in the development of the "Geocacher's Creed," which emphasizes environmental responsibility and helps show skeptics that our hobby can be enjoyed, not only without damaging the environment, but actually benefiting it by promoting efforts like CITO.

The Executive Committee for 2007 is:

President: Hoot Owl

Secretary: cgeek

Treasurer: chibongo

The newsletter is edited by: Mackheath

If there is anything you would like to contribute to an edition of the newsletter, perhaps you would like to provide a review of an event you attended or would like to write a geocaching article, please send an e-mail to: [newsletter@gowt.org](mailto:newsletter@gowt.org)

This newsletter is published monthly when possible and will hopefully be of interest to everyone.

Also, please visit our website at [www.gowt.org](http://www.gowt.org)