

Geocachers of West Tennessee

Newsletter

VOLUME II ISSUE 8

August, 2008

A Message from the Leadership Committee

Summer in the South is hot! That's no surprise to anyone who lives here. But what you may find surprising is that there are still a good number of caches which you can hunt without getting too miserable from the heat. These caches keep you in the shade (for the most part) and often can be relatively quick finds (it all depends on where you look...). Here are some examples from around the GOWT area: "Trolling for that Darned Treasure!" and "General Washburn's Escape Alley" in Memphis; "He Came From the East" and "Ovation Revised" in Jackson; "The Great Bald Eagle" and "Reelfoot Natural Spring" near Reelfoot Lake; "One-Eyed Green Monster" and "The Screamer" in Humboldt. There are some great night time caches to hunt during the cool summer evenings, like "Night Time Squirrel Hunt." Since many of these caches keep you under shade trees, you may want bug spray, even if the hunting time is short. Of course, there are far too many good "in-the-shade" caches to list them all here. If you're interested in finding some "cool" caches in a certain area, just put a post on the forums and we'll be glad to give you our suggestions!

Another way to enjoy caching in the summer while staying relatively cool is to attend events (instead of wandering around in the sun)! A special event recognizing Cgeek for achieving her 3K milestone is scheduled for August 16th. Come join us and we look forward to seeing you there!

Littlebit01 receives her 1K coin!



Littlebit01 doesn't like to admit her real age (it's somewhere between 5 and 6 years old) but she does like to talk about geocaching. Last March this industrious young cacher (and GOWT member) found her **1000th** cache. Katelyn (that's her "real" name) is the daughter of Lacey38655 and Sniperchicken. Littlebit01 has been caching with her parents since April, 2006. During that time she has found some tough ones, including Wooley Swamp, A Floater, Marvin Poole, and Hidden Lakes. At the Celebrate Summer event on July 26th in front of the entire crowd, Littlebit01 was presented with her 1K geocoin from GOWT in recognition of her accomplishment. In addition, she received a special necklace with a blue, blinky light on it (she really didn't want a golden ammo can) which she liked a lot. Congratulations to Littlebit01 on her accomplishment! We all cannot wait to attend her 3k event (which could happen before she is ten years old)!

A Large Turnout for the 2nd Annual Celebrate Summer



Geocachers began arriving before 9am at the picnic pavilion to attend the 2nd Annual Celebrate Summer event held on Saturday, July 26th, at Sardis Lake in Mississippi. It seemed as if everyone brought with them plenty of food and drinks to share with the crowd. In total about 50-60 geocachers and their families attended, coming from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

The morning began with a lot of meeting and greeting by all the folks, many of whom had not seen one another since this same event a year ago. Following the initial greetings, it was time to go grab some caches around the Sardis dam and most people did just that. Cachers went out in groups to hunt the "Tiki" series of caches and to go after the nearby letterbox. Some caches stayed close to the pavilion to participate in the "Geodash" competition which Lacey38655 had arranged to see who could find nearby caches the fastest.

At lunch time the grill overflowed with hamburgers and hot dogs. There were plenty of goodies for dessert including pies and cakes. Following lunch, a number of presentations were made to cachers who received their 1K and 3K milestones. And there were so many door prizes that pretty much everyone attending won something. Special prizes were given to the kids.

By early afternoon cachers were back on the trails hunting again. With at least a dozen caches to find in the general area, there was plenty to keep everyone happily caching into the afternoon. By dusk everyone was worn out after a fun day. The "good-byes" were accompanied by "we'll do it again next year!"

A great big "Thanks!" to Lacey38655 and to Sniperchicken who worked very hard to make this great event the huge success that it was!

FEATURED CACHER PROFILE: GONAEM

How did you come up with your caching name?

Well, every time we thought of a name it was taken. So we, took two letters each from my youngest three children's names and made up "go" (Gordon) "na" (Donna) "em" (Emily)-gonaem. Not very original but it worked.

How did you hear about geocaching?

My oldest son, Jarad (gotons) lives in Clarksville and he told us about geocaching last Christmas. He knew we'd like a good adventure, not to mention a treasure hunt!

What do you do for a living?

I'm a pawnbroker in Trenton, TN.

My daughter Donna is a senior in high school as is her twin brother Gordon, and my daughter Emily is a student at UT Martin.

Tells us about your caching team?

Our team consists of myself (Dorothy), my daughters Emily and Donna and my son Gordon when he isn't sleeping away the day.....

What are your favorite caches and caching area?

Our favorite cache is "Be Sure To Wave".

It is outside of Paris, TN and was set out by the parents of a young woman who was paralyzed when she was hit by a drunk driver 21 years ago. When you stop by the cache please wave as the mother and daughter come out onto the porch (if the weather permits). The great thing about this cache is that you have a small part in brightening someone else's day.

We also enjoy multi's and historical caches. We love caches that are out of our immediate area. We've been able to experience some very special places that we never knew existed.

Do you have any short or long term caching goals?

We are working on getting some of our own caches out there and hope to have them available soon. As for long range caching goals, I guess we'll just keep on going and going and going.....we are planning a trip to the West Coast and are looking forward to caching on our way to California as well as on the way back home.

Do you have a funny caching story you would like to share?

Other than the time my daughter almost got bit by a boxer outside of titansfan's house? Not funny then but we laugh about it now.....the funniest MADE UP story would have to be about Davy Crockett's Cabin. We made up a huge story about trying to find the cache while a raccoon came out of the top of a tree, knocked us down, and my daughter got back up and beat the coon with her GPS, giving it two black eyes (funny because we are BIG chickens)..... the funniest TRUE story would have to be about the little old man in Jackson who was convinced we worked for TDOT and were out inspecting "Dead End" signs. He wanted his dead end street opened up again; we tried to tell him we were

not TDOT and that we were just playing a game but he didn't believe a word we were saying. We finally promised to voice his concerns to our superiors so he'd let us leave.

FEATURED CACHE SECTION

This is an older cache but I think if giving out award should be given a Purple Ribbon for Grand! by cannotreadgps

Note: my opinion only

It's a well hidden but in plain view area where the cache is located, as you enter the first location you think oh, it's just another one of those finds, but you keep walking and then suddenly it's like you transform back in time as you enter this Grand place. A question pops in your mind "Is Heaven like this?" As you are walking along take notice of the green clover-like grass so neatly growing on the ground, not to tall, not weedy. Feel the wind lightly blowing through the trees that surround the area, especially when right outside of the boundary it is so open & hot. As you are standing there getting your GPS ready for the next step, look up and watch the sunlight shine through the branches that seems to be protecting the area. Do you hear the birds singing or the insects chirping? It would be the perfect place to bring a book to read or have a picnic with your family – I don't think the residents would object, if possible by all means I believe they would welcome you with open hearts & arms to enjoy the scenery if they could. Just think of the stories that could be told out here.

Remember when you do this cache look around and take notice.

Where is this cache located you may ask? I'm not trying to spoil the fun of this cache, because I don't really remember when the cache is actually located within the surroundings. But I for one would like to plan a day to drive back to Troy to this Grand Cache.

- Has anyone ever done a cache twice? –

1st Settlement near Troy by pcsenn

Searchingforit is awarded his Golden Ammo Can

Searchingforit nails 1K and we got to celebrate!

by Itcomagic (Douglas H.)

Wow! What an awesome event. Well, I may be a bit biased, being one of the party planners. Still, I believe everyone had a good time celebrating this momentous achievement of our own Chuck Dickson.

It was on a very hot Saturday afternoon that over two dozen geocachers (both from the GOWT area and abroad) took over the back room of *Interstate BBQ* in Southaven, MS. In fact, we almost spilled over, having just enough room to fit everyone in attendance. It was immediately evident that there were a lot of folks who wanted to congratulate this excellent cacher for all of his hard work. I'll start this overview by saying that his choice of the eating establishment was excellent. We certainly had our waitress hopping but she did a great job bringing out plenty of great barbeque. I would not hesitate recommending the place for any other events, especially those taking place in northern Mississippi.

Bruce (Abiectio) presented Chuck with his golden ammo can, which was filled with some awesome gifts and his 1K Achievement Coin; which brings me to mention the very cache Chuck earned all of this praise: *Abandon Hope*. Personally, I have not made it out to this cache yet; but, I haven't met a local cacher who hasn't trembled at the mere mention of this award-winning multi. No one will say just how many stages there are to this cache, but Chuck stated that it took him, along with *gonnafindit*, two days and a cumulative eight hours of searching-for-it to complete. A true 5/5, this cache has found itself in the ranks of Memphis' most difficult and feared caches; a real point of pride for anyone - and a truly awesome 1000 found smiley!

Then, there were the door prizes. There was your usual array of coins, travel-bugs, rope, foot warmers and, of course, seed containers. This reminds me of one particular cacher that we got to meet that afternoon: *Kailuasquid*. It seems that although he has been a member since late 2002, this was his first 'Event Cache'. I am thrilled that he chose this one to attend as his first and we look forward to seeing him at many more. Also, I want to welcome him back from the Middle East and to thank him for his many years of service in the Navy. I also mention him here because even after close to four-hundred finds, there isn't a cache out there (as of yet) with his name in the 'author' column. So, it seems like the Fates themselves had a hand in his door-prize: a small camo'ed Lock&Lock, complete with log book. We are anxiously awaiting that hide to pop up anytime.

So, the festivities wrapped up with a group picture and some fellowship and...oh, wait: who's that? I am sorry, but the irony was not lost on me that our own GI clan showed up a little late to a GPS sport due to having become a little turned around. That's right...with GI Joe at the wheel, he, Jane and Junior made it just as the party was wrapping up. I guess the GPS was out of batteries☺. I kid the crew because they are super great folks and I know they can take it and know that it is in good fun. I really am sincerely glad that they were able to find the cache, Stateline Road notwithstanding, as it always good to see them and it made for the best story of the whole day!

So, to wrap up the wrap up, I want to again congratulate Chuck on a super and well deserved achievement. I had a wonderful time talking with folks that, unfortunately, I only get to see at these events or periodically on the trails. It has been said many times

and by many people, but just like any sport or club, Geocaching really is about the folks behind the alias' and the containers stuffed away in the woods. Every magnetic key holder out there has a hider and every cache-page has an author and you never know which one of them is going to turn out to be that really cool guy or gal that you really do hope makes the next event so that you can, at the very least, shake their hand and say hello.

I cannot make it to every event that comes up, but when I do, I look forward to meeting that *~Mindless-Focus~*, that *Tinksdad01*, and that *bevofan* because their names, the caches that they have found and the ones that they have hidden really are only half the story. When I can sit down and share a meal and a conversation with them is when I can truly get the rest of it.

MILESTONES

Titansfan	1800	Cachestalker94	400
Prontopup	1700	Adonis32	400
Pcsenn	1600	Chimps8mybaby	300
Netinator	1500 & 1600	Riverchaser	300
Abiectio	1300	MaximusWilliam	300
Itcomagic	1100	Utemi04	100
Pharmd93	600	Nelms3	100
FamilyInFilm	500		

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 green space, 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 green space.

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

**The Leadership Committee for 2008:
Abiectio, Hoot Owl, Pcsenn, Prontopup & Titansfan**