

# Geocachers of West Tennessee

Newsletter

---

VOLUME II ISSUE 11

November, 2008

---

## **FEATURED CACHER PROFILE: Salamander60, SweetThang, LilSal**

### **1) How did you all come up with your caching names?**

My caching name actually came from a nickname that my brother, who was a few years older than me in school. His nickname was Salamander and so it was passed to me by some of his friends. Not sure the actual origin of the nickname, but I would imagine because of our last name being Sanders. Of course that has been many years ago since I was in high school, but there is one of our friends that still lives in our home town that still calls me "Salamander". So when I was thinking of a name for myself I took that partly in honor of my brother and for the year I was born, 1960. My daughter, Kaitlyn, was the next one on board with the caching experience and while I was talking about a username she decided to go with my idea of "Little Salamander" but thought that shorting it to "Lil Sal" sounded so much better, almost like a "Chicago gangster", which is where I was born. Now "Sweet Thang" who is my wife Kym, was a little more complicated with the name game. We, my daughter and I, suggested "Mama Sal" , but Kym thought that it sounded too much like "Mama Sow" so we quickly came up with something different real fast!! At the time my daughter was watching the show "Suite Life of Zac and Cody" on tv and one Zac said the phrase "Hey Sweet Thang" so "Sweet Thang" was the choice of the day. When attending events we will use "Salamander60Clan" or "Sal Clan" for our little group.

### **2) What were the circumstances that you learned about geocaching?**

I work as the Art teacher at Dyersburg Middle School and our Technology Coordinator was there working with one of the other tech guys on some of the computers during an in-service one evening and they were talking about Geocaching. I happened to walk into the area and started talking to them and they were going on about this activity where you took a GPS out into the highways and byways and find things that were hidden. The topic sounded like something that would be a great way to get out and get some exercise and have some fun, especially with my wife and daughter. I started talking about it to our Tech coordinator who told me that he and his wife had just started doing it and it was really fun. That Tech coordinator was none other than Jimmy Logan (Jimmy Anderson).



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

**I started 23 years ago teaching art at Dyersburg Middle School and have loved it. Before that, I worked at Akin and Porter Produce in Greenfield, loading trucks with produce. I did this while attending the University of Tennessee at Martin. After college I worked in a factory in order to pay the bills and then a screen-printing company as a screen-builder. I was putting out applications for an art positions for a couple years , when my boss that I worked for at the University of Tennessee at Martin came across the WalMart parking lot and told me about three new art positions that was being started in the Dyersburg City Schools. The rest of the story is that I went to work for them that fall, met my wonderful wife on a blind date and three years latter had my also wonderful daughter!!**

**Along with teaching art, I have always been active in producing art outside the rim of the classroom. I airbrush t-shirts, backdrops and do some graphic art for people from time to time. My main medium of choice is pencil. I have started a website for my business "CKKStudio",that has one of my drawings entitled "Our Redeemer" at this time. The website is [CKKStudio.com](http://CKKStudio.com).**



**4) What are your favorite caches?**

**My favorite caches are unique ones that make me have to think about them or cemetery hunts. That does not mean that I always find them, or that you won't get a PAF from me, but I enjoy the hunt.**

**But I would have to add that one of my favorite type caches are the ones that take me to a place in which the scenery, such as "Boondocks", is picture worthy.**

**Anything unique? There was one unique cache that we ran into in Owensboro this past summer that I really enjoyed. It was hide on a light pole in which it looked like a plug outlet. When you opened it, it still looked like a plug outlet till you pried it open. It was definitely not one that you would easily find and you might have even closed the door on the outlet thinking that it was real.**

**5) Any long or short term caching goals?**

**We would love to hit the 500 mark by spring.**

**We cache as a family and there are many times that I have not stopped on my drive home from Dyersburg because SweetThang and Lil Sal were not with me. That is one reason that our numbers are low, but my ultimate goal is to spend time with my family. Long term goal is to be caching the next several years no matter how many we have. We just enjoy the hunt and getting out as a family and enjoying each other. We could be AATN (all about the numbers) but the reality is that life is just so busy that we just can't be concerned about the number or we loose the fun of the hunt.**

6) Any funny story you would like to share?

The funniest story that I can share about our caching experience is the one in Lexington Tn. while out with our friends JimmyLogan and [B@shful](#) and we were hunting the cache "Guy B. Amis was here" GCRZT7, March 3, 2007. We had all gone up to the Lexington area to do some caching and it had gotten dark, and if you know this cache it is in a "lower area" . We had all gone down to get the cache and the comment had been made by [B@shful](#) that there was a need for a restroom break. Well, she took off back up the hill but a went a different way that my wife. We just figured that she was going to find a dark secluded area in order to relieve her uncomfot, but that was not the case. By the time [B@shful](#) had gotten to the top of the hill my wife had already gotten back up the way we came down so that [B@shful](#) was at least 30 yards from my wife (SweetThang). Well, [B@shful](#) yelled back down the hill at Jimmylogan, LilSal (my daughter) and myself that there was a "MUGGLE". But she said it in more like a whisper as if SweetThang could not hear her. Well, we are down the hill wondering what she is talking about, but she keeps walking towards SweetThang, whom she thinks is the muggle and yelling down at us "MUGGLE, MUGGLE!!". In the meantime my wife SweetThang is afraid to look around because she thinks that there is a "MUGGLE!" somewhere around her. She sees [B@shful](#) coming towards her but doesn't realize that she is thought to be the "MUGGLE!". This whole time we, the ones of us down the hill , are looking at each other and say " What is she talking about?" Finally reaching SweetThang and not soiling her pants, [B@shful](#) realizes that it is not a "MUGGLE!" but that it is SweetThang, which finally asks her where is the "MUGGLE"? It was a great cache and a great experience. You can visit the cache and read the logs for March 3, 2007.

## **RVG Meet & Greet by Titansfan**

Just outside the GOWT area in Murray, Kentucky a River Valley Meet and Greet will take place. It will be an opportunity for GOWT members to be acquainted or re-acquainted with our friends to the north. After an early dinner, join us as we caravan our way through the Land Between the Lakes to find several night caches. The event starts at 3pm on November 8, 2008. Check the listing for GC1FRAM.

I

## **Prontopup and Tiger130 leading GOWT'S Introduction to Geocaching Event on November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The staff of the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Germantown has been very supportive of geocaching within the city. They are providing GOWT the use of the large pavilion in one of the larger city parks (i.e., Cameron Brown Park) on Saturday, Nov. 1st, so that people interested in geocaching can learn about the sport.

GOWT's introduction to geocaching event starts promptly at 10am and lasts until noon (or maybe a little longer). Prontopup and Tiger130 will be the primary "teachers." Experienced cachers who attend the event will be asked to help the "newbies" as they teach the basics of geocaching.

The biggest challenges always involve teaching the use of the GPS'r units so be prepared to assist with that if you come! In fact, it sometimes can be such a challenge that the "difficulty" of this event is a "2"!

When we have held introductory events in the past they have always been fun. Everyone is invited to come and help.

## **Cache Hunting on da Cumberland River in Nashville, TN** By Tiger130

After buying a kayak when I hit 1k on the Ghost River, I knew I had to attend this event. It was 170 miles from my home coordinates, buy hey, it was a JoGPS event and all of his events are just toooo cool. The day started bright and early with a meet- n-greet at Shoney's after which we proceeded to da boat dock in Shelby Park. When Bitbrain and I arrived at the boat dock there were many types of watercraft. Anything from johnboats, canoes, kayaks, 2 ski boats, and Captain Joe was in his own vessel, *da Boat*. I knew right away this was not going to be your everyday kind of event, but an adventure.



We had a bookmark list of 13 caches that we hoped to hit. The caches were all along the river both north and south of the boat launch. We were able to hit all of those plus a top secret cache. You just had to be there to partake in that special mission, but all I can share is that I had my first encounter with a bat in a very tight space.

I was especially looking forward to two of the caches; *Rapunzel's Summer Quarters* and the *Old Nashville Wharf*. Not many people are able to say they have found these two. Bitbrain and I paddled like we had a shark chasing us trying to beat everyone to *Rapunzel's Summer Quarters*. I wanted to be the one to climb the rusty iron ladder on the outside of an old abandoned stone tower. It was at least 50 feet high and the trick was to stand up in the kayak and then proceed to climb the ladder in crocs. Oh, and did I mention that I'm afraid of heights? This cache was so awesome that didn't even bother me. I signed the log and made my descent and was able to get back in the kayak without flipping us both into the water.

Cap'n Joe led us further south to a few more caches before we headed back north. I think it was about that time when Bitbrain and I decided we had paddled enough. Joe threw us a tow line and pulled us around rest of the day. Teamwork is what caching is all about right??

When we reached the *Old Nashville Wharf*, Joe hinted that we might be the only ones low enough in the water to be able to retrieve this one. Little did I know just how close it would be. With the water level as high as it was, I actually had to lay down on my back while Bitbrain paddled me into the dark, spider infested nook. Ahhh, the things you do for caching. It's was also another one of those hard to find difficulty/terrain combination for us working on the *Well Rounded Cacher Challenge aka Fizzy Challenge*.

The other caches along the way ranged from a simple micro (that happened to be the hardest one for us to find) to ammo cans welded to chains and attached to all manner of fixed objects. There were even a few that had some of us thinking we'd need to visit the minor emergency center for acute poison ivy poisoning. One could have been reached overland with appropriate rappelling gear.



We finished the day on the river with our very first WhereIGo cache – *Zones // size does matter*. Cap'n Joe had his new Garmin Oregon with the cache module loaded. This cache was designed as a demonstration of the cache type and required us to move into zones of decreasing size. As we got into a zone, the GPS would point us

toward the next zone. The first zone, at 400,000 square feet, was pretty easy to get into. The last zone was only 900 square feet. That may seem pretty large, but getting our kayak to stay in it on a moving river was quite difficult. The pressure of all those other cachers watching you paddle around in circles didn't make it any easier. We finally got into the zone and the WhereIGo module provided us with coordinates for the ammo can at the end of the journey.

After about 7 hours on the river, Bitbrain and I had found 15 caches with a really great group of folks. This experience has me salivating in anticipation of the upcoming Float-caching Event on Percy Priest Lake in the very near future.

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

WOW!!! October flew by and November is upon us. The Leadership Committee wants to encourage everyone to take the opportunity of the cooler weather, as well as the benefits of it (fewer bugs, fewer creeping things, and less sweat except on those extremely difficult caches, etc.) , to head out and get those caches. Then log into the forums and tell everyone of your awesome adventures. You may even post appropriate pictures of your adventures in the forums for everyone's enjoyment. Speaking of caching, there is an opportunity, planned by our own Titansfan, to make a run of many of the night caches in the LBL, following an event (GC1FRAM) on 11/8/2008. Ya'll Come!

## **MILESTONES Reached During October, 2008**

<b>Netinator</b>	<b>1900 &amp; 2000</b>
<b>SniperChicken</b>	<b>1800</b>
<b>Pcsenn</b>	<b>1800</b>
<b>spencersb</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Bitbrain</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Chimps8mybaby</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>MaximusWilliams</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Minnie Mouse</b>	<b>300</b>

## **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 2008:  
Abiectio, Hoot Owl, Pcsenn, Prontopup & Titansfan**