

Geocachers of West Tennessee

Newsletter

VOLUME II ISSUE 12

December, 2008

Message from the Leadership Committee

As Christmas approaches be mindful that beginning cachers will be out experimenting with their new GPS receivers. Invite the new cachers to the GOWT website and be available to assist when asked.

FEATURED CACHER PROFILE: Nelms3



How did you come up with your caching name?

It is definitely not anything creative – just our last name and the reference to us being a family team of three – husband and wife for 17 years, Elmer & Linda, along with our 10-

year-old son, Trevor. Our team generally finds caches together, but Elmer is the one member of the team who has actually been there at 100% of our caches. Occasionally Elmer will go out caching alone or with just either Linda or Trevor.

How did you hear about Geocaching?

We already had a GPSr and Elmer was on the Garmin website on New Year's Day of this year, where he saw a link to the Geocaching website. He noticed there was a cache – Fisherman's Swap - very close to our home, so we went out and found it that afternoon. Then we found another nearby cache that same day – Pleasant Hill Cemetery. That second cache was owned by cgeek and she emailed us a nice note of encouragement after we logged it. We've been hooked ever since and think it's a great way for families to spend time together.

What do you do for a living?

We both work at a company in Bartlett called Kele, which is a distributor for HVAC building automation parts. Elmer has been in the custom control panel division for 21 years and Linda, a sales & marketing administrator, has worked there almost 8 years. Trevor is a 5th grade student.

What are your favorite caches and caching area?

We really enjoy unique and creative caches: local ones such as Midsouth ABCs and FTF Pirate #7: Bolt'n Loose; and A Tranquil Place to Rest near Linda's hometown of Yazoo City, MS. We enjoy caching anytime we travel out of town, also. It definitely takes us to interesting sites that we would otherwise miss, and frequently gives us an opportunity to learn about the history of the area. After the recent RVG Meet & Greet event organized by Titansfan, we joined some great folks for some night caching in Land Between the Lakes State Park in Kentucky. This was our first adventure in night caching and we discovered it's a lot of fun, too. We enjoy taking friends and family out to introduce them to Geocaching, as well.

Do you have any short or long term caching goals?

Initially we set a goal to have 100 finds in 2008. We achieved that back in July, so then we increased it to 200 in 2008. That goal was also met this month. We've not made another goal as of yet.

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

One of our favorite things about Geocaching is that we usually find something to laugh about. Sometimes we inadvertently provide material for others to laugh at, also.

Although Tiger130 and Bitbrain were very gracious when Linda managed to trip and tumble to the ground about 3 times within 5 minutes on our night caching run, they are probably secretly calling her “Princess Grace”. 😊



Linda and Trevor really prefer caches where there aren't a lot of muggles around, whereas Elmer is game for any cache - anywhere! On an afternoon caching run this summer, he decided to get Blue Rhino. This cache is located at the parking lot of a busy Walgreen's store. After we pulled into the parking lot, Elmer spotted the location where he just KNEW it was going to be and didn't even bother to look at his GPSr. Linda and Trevor stayed in the car and found it more and more amusing to watch customers stare at Elmer as he climbed around and got down on the ground in all kinds of contortions to try to find this cache. After about 5 minutes of searching, he came back to the car and said it must have been mugged, but he was going to check his GPSr anyway. Our giggles turned to uncontrollable laughter after he looked at the GPSr and discovered it was not where he thought it was – it was actually about two feet away from where we parked! He did manage to get it and sign the log without attracting too much more attention.

Other comical situations result from us getting in such a hurry in our zeal to get to a cache that we forget to take basic equipment with us. This is not a problem on PNGs, but on longer hikes, we've had to get a bit creative from time to time. For our 100th

cache, we planned to get Alexis' Cache. For some reason that we've yet to figure out, we decided to go around noon on a very hot July day. We also agreed to Trevor's idea to take his friend Brett along, because we were going to have to rent a four-person paddleboat to get to the cache. With both Trevor and Brett paddling, Elmer and Linda could just sit back and relax while they got us out to the cache in just a few minutes, right? Well, after what seemed like hours of paddling and sweating, with what appeared to be very little work by Trevor and Brett, and a whole lot of work by Elmer and Linda, we made it to the cache and Elmer opened the container. He asked Linda for the pen, to which she replied "Don't YOU have the pen??" After all this effort to get to the cache, we were NOT going to leave without finding a way to sign that log! Elmer looked in the container and relayed the good news that there was a pencil in the bottom of the container, but the bad news was that it was a brand new, unsharpened pencil....and he had left his knife at home. He did find a way to sharpen it – let's just say that if there were any beavers in the area, they may have been looking at him in awe.

Another story we'd like to share is how Geocaching reunited us with a friend from Linda's school days. Following a trip to visit Linda's mom in Mississippi, we logged a cache and emailed the owner to let them know it needed some maintenance. She replied back to thank us and asked if the lady in our profile picture grew up in Yazoo City. It turned out to be Leslie, a.k.a. ponzelle2&crew, whom Linda had gone to elementary school with. Linda was just elated that Leslie recognized her from the picture after all those years! We've since had much fun Geocaching with Leslie & hubby Brent both in Mississippi and Tennessee, and Trevor loves that they always take their precious little dog, Kimsi, along.

RVG Meet and Greet in Murray, KY

A host of cachers of West Tennessee make the journey to Murray, Kentucky on November 8 and enjoyed fellowship with folks from Kentucky and Indiana. A large caravan of cachers departed Murray just before sunset and went after nine nighttime only caches in the north LBL (Land Between the Lakes) in Kentucky.

Geocaching Introduction Event

On November 1st thirty newbies and experienced cachers gathered at Cameron Brown Park in Germantown, TN, for GOWT's Geocaching Introduction Event. Prontopup and Tiger130 lead the event which was intended to introduce caching to people interested in learning about the sport. The event included demonstrating how to enter waypoints into GPS'r units. "Practice" caches had been hidden around the nearby lake and "newbies"

paired up with experienced cachers to hunt these. After all of the practice caches had been found the group decided to go after a real cache, "West Side of Cameron Brown."



The thirty cachers quickly broke into three different groups, all of which headed into the woods in a different direction. Everyone found the cache which marked the end of the event. A good time was had by all who attended. An introduction to night caching event is planned in Germantown next March.

Caches to consider in December

In December of 1862, West Tennessee was occupied by Union forces. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest launched his first West Tennessee raid crossing the Tennessee River at Clifton. The goal of the raid was to disrupt Union communications, supply, gather recruits and supplies. After crossing the Tennessee River, the cavalry forces raided Lexington, preceded to Jackson, fighting a pitched battle at Old Salem Church/Cemetery and raiding Jackson. Forces continued moving onto Humboldt, tearing up railroad lines and burning bridges. Fought a short engagement at Trenton, marched to

Union City. Then through Dresden, taking supplies and cutting down the railroad trestle. Camped at McKenzie and while on the homestretch, Forrest found himself in a battle against two Union forces at Parker's Crossroads. Battle was a draw and during the night Forrest led his troopers away from the enemy, re-crossing the river at Clifton back to Confederate held territory.

We are fortunate that there are many geocaches along the path Forrest took through his first West Tennessee raid.

Serenity (GC11N86) by RiverNWick, oversee the location where Forrest crossed and re-crossed the Tennessee River.

Large Oak Tree (GC1AK23) by dalls. Site saw the first shots beginning the battle at Old Salem Church/Cemetery.

Old Salem Church/Cemetery (GCN253) by -boatman-. This is where the battle took place. Soldiers from both sides are buried here. Local Civil War groups have made efforts to restore and memorialize the battlefield.

General Nathan Bedford Forrest (GCXK28) by Crying Fox. Cache takes one to a historical marker with information about the raid in Humboldt.

Forrest on a Hill (GCMBTM) by riverandthemice. A multi-cache located at a hilltop cemetery where action took place.

Forrest Raids Dresden (GCZY4C) by Titansfan. A hard terrain cache located near the old railroad. Cache is located near an opening to walk under the railroad bed and see the stumps with axe marks from the Confederate calvarymen.

The final caches are at Parker's Crossroads battlefield which include **Walking Through the Battlefield** (GCTV34) by BigDaddyD, **Cabin at the Crossroads** (GC1DWRQ) by Yogi & Dolphin, **Red Mound** (GCTG3F) by -boatman- and Charge 'em both ways (GC1E0G2) by Titansfan.

Advisory Committee Members for 2009

The advisory committee members for the caching year of 2009 are announced and include:

Tinksdad01, Tiger130, itcomagic, adonis32, Hoot Owl, pcsenn, Pharm93, Gibbenator, minismiths, Prontopup and Abiectio

Milestones during the month of November, 2008

Lacey38655	1800
Tiger130	1100
Nelms3	200
Nvisible	200
Endoriders	200

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

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

Happy Holidays!