

country. We saw old friends and made many new ones. Geocachers are the most friendly, caring people that you could meet and we met many of them. One especially comes to mind, a teacher from Alabama. She hosted a flash mob event where she asked attendees to bring dirt/soil from their area with the coordinates attached to the container. She was going to use these with her class in Alabama.

Gee!:

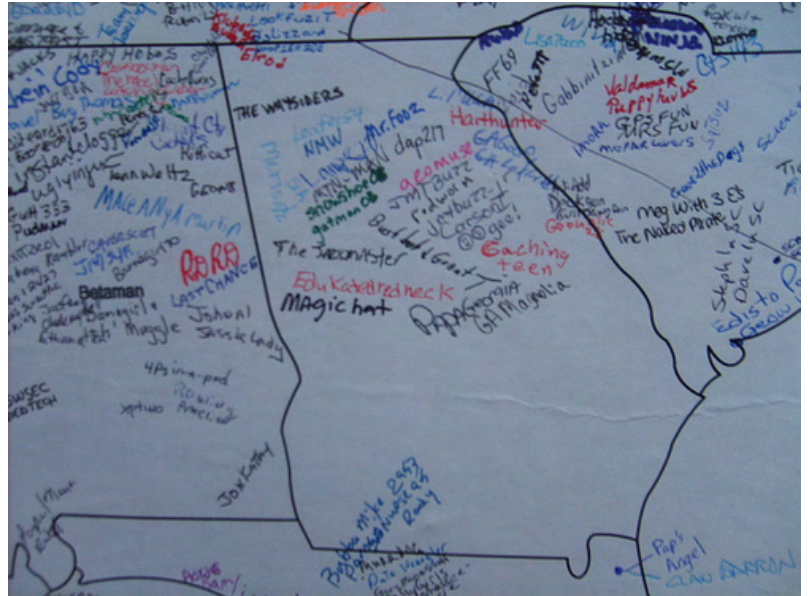
We had a fabulous time! We met many friendly cachers, and everyone had a smile to share and a fun story to tell. It was like a family reunion! Our 14 year old twins said it was the best vacation we have ever been on. We were especially touched by the kindness of pathtag traders. Our boys took 20 GGA pathtags and about \$20 in golden dollars and some Save our Streams pins to trade with. They came back home with at least 60 unique pathtags! Now that is some good trading! We learned that out west they don't use pathtags so much, they mostly use signature items. We liked L. Frank's little miniature plastic weiner, and DreamCacher's green plastic peace beads. We would like to thank Geomuse for her butterfly pathtag which she left in a cache at Suwanee Creek Greenway, and also DragonflyDreams for her pathtag; that is what got Mark started on his new pathtag

PASSION. Sam of Smiling in Acworth walked up to Jacob at GW7 and said "Hey, I was saving that haybale" and sat down next to him and started pushing him off the bale. Our dad got worried cause he did not know who SIA was, because he doesn't go to GGA events with us and didn't know SIA, he was about ready to slug him, but then Jacob finally realized who it was and laughed at him. Good thing! We drove to many gatherings at cache hide locations and waited in line to sign our name; we are glad we have a short geonick! Sometimes we left and just asked someone to sign our geonick (no, not really). We got to test a new DeLorme PN-40 GPSr and had loaded it with our first "caches along a route" pocket query. The pocket query imported directly into the GPSr with the .gpx file with all the comments (didn't even need GSAK) so we were able to do paperless caching all weekend! It had all the topo and aerial for all of Tennessee on it. That is one fantastic unit. Our mom had a great time because she got to talk to Earthcache lovers like "Diggin up Bones" and "Jazzmaster" and got to choose all the cache stops on the way home, and there were a LOT of earthcaches in Tennessee! It was funny to finally meet our local cachers in person so far away from home. We met Puzzler and Cabdriver of The Waysiders and they told us how they solved our 5-star puzzle cache (very clever). We met Redworm and Geomuse who was at our GPSr summer camp at Camp Elachee last year. We also met mtn-man when Mark found a dog to play with. You know those dog lovers, they will find a dog to play with anywhere they go! We got to park very close because we decorated our geo-mobile and it was in the show-offs parking section. We had a gigantic travel bug on it, "I see the gee! mobile!" and decorated it with duct-tape in geocaching.com colors. The most fun we had was with our personal pathtag, "Seeing Double?" We put half the number on one identical twin and half the number on the other identical twin and people had to meet them together to get the whole number! That was quite the icebreaker to ask cachers if they were pathtag traders! The best moment of all was when we were driving home after earthcaching all day and heard the Supertramp song "Take The Long Way Home" and Jacob asked "Is that the geocaching theme song?" Yes, it certainly is, isn't it! :))

blessedbyGod:

I had a great time at my first Geowoodstock. It was amazing to see and meet different people from all over the place. It's like I knew there are a lot of people who geocache but when I saw

The GeoWoodstock VII log – photo by gee!



them all together that is when I really realized the number of people who do it. I think maybe the best part for me was to visit the vendor booths to see and buy the different geocaching items. I bought a few things so I can hide my own caches which is something I haven't done yet. So now, I can't wait to hide my first cache!

By jmtbuzz_jr:

The Geowoodstock VII weekend was one of my most successful Geocaching weekends in a long time. The trip was a short four-hour drive up from Atlanta and into Tennessee, on the way we got five easy rest stop smileys. The Meet and Greet was very welcoming with the bingo game and coin trading already in progress, providing us with plenty of solid, Geocaching event entertainment! After getting the full experience of the first mega event of the weekend, JMTBuzz, CarsonI, and I headed over to Tullahoma for the night. We decided to start the next morning with a few geocaches on our way over to the Geowoodstock site, plugging in the "Find Nearest" button on the GPS. Would you look at that - 20 feet away, in the parking lot of the hotel! Oh, but it's an LPC...

We reached Bell Buckle successfully, and didn't have much of a hard time with the tough parking arrangements, which we later found out was one of the reasons a few Georgia geocachers ended up missing Geowoodstock! Flooded parking to miss a mega event in the neighborhood? Well, we worked through it and found a descent spot, packing up JMTBuzz's fanny pack with some geoSWAG, the camera, and of course, the GPS and Pocket PC.

The day was altogether a smooth one in the little town of Bell Buckle. We looked around at all the town had to offer and all that the Geocaching booths had to offer, which included a few evil ideas for my next geocache... mwahaha... The music was great and the feeling that there weren't any geomuggles around was even greater. As the Geowoodstock day was coming to a close, our Geocaching day was just getting started. We had plans to find a few local geocaches and head back to the hotel, after the Flash Mob took place at a nearby historic farm. But as the evening progressed we were on a roll. We managed to rack up a total of 65 smileys for the day and we didn't stop there. Sunday morning started with a Flash Mob at Wal-Mart and we hit 40 or so more geocaches in the area and on our route home, bringing the weekend's total to 112.

We arrived at our mountain house to spend the night and reflect on how many geocaches we had found. Looking at the numbers, we discovered that I hit 1000 finds and JMTBuzz hit 2100, right at the Geowoodstock meeting! The weekend was an overall fun, enjoyable, muggle-free success. Geowoodstock VIII, here I come!



TB geo-car. photo by PapaGeorgette

PapaGeorgette:

We had a great time. Met a few new cachers. We thought that it was a very well done event. Great organization for an event this size. Lots of great vendors. Weather held out really good. They gave out some fantastic door prizes. We are really glad we went.

LZ33:

This was my first mega event so seeing everyone and being in a Sixties theme was quite a experience. It's the only place to go where you can meet all the vendors from the geocaching world. The event was well organized and fun - a venue that any serious cacher must attend. If you're contemplating taking up caching you could easily catch the caching bug by attending. It's

the only venue that I've attended where such a large group of diverse people gather and have a great time by just attending, trading trackables and looking for other cachers that have traveled to the event. I can't wait for the next one.

GeorgiaTreasureQuester:

My GeoWoodstock day began early. I was scheduled to work a volunteer shift at 8:00 am and I still needed to decorate my truck for the "Car Show Off" contest. I awoke early and drove from Manchester to the Bell Buckle exit, where I pulled over and, to the serenade of a barking dog, I applied to my truck the homemade decorations that I drew and the frogs that I decorated just for the GeoWoodstock car decoration contest.

I found that I had to drive very slowly for the remainder of the drive to Bell Buckle. The magnets on my decorations were a bit too weak and I had to make several stops for recovery. I made it to the parking area with most of my decorations still intact. I was rewarded with a special parking pass to "show off" my handiwork. I had hoped that my decorations would be good enough. But, I really had no idea how elaborate other cachers would be with their decorations. So, I was thrilled to get the special parking pass.

Later I took a quick trip around the vendor booths. I saw the Canadian Beaver travel bug set and told my friend that one of my local cacher friends, Johann Panholtz, had given one of those items away at a recent event and that I had hoped to win it because it was an unusual item. The person standing on the other side of me said in a familiar voice, whose event was that. I looked up and to my total shock, Johann Panholtz (plus two) was asking the question. How crazy that? I was speaking of him and he was standing right next to me. I guess that I was just so overwhelmed with the amount of people and all of the visual and audio stimuli that I somehow simply didn't realize that he was there. However, it was great to see him at GeoWoodstock.

Making my way back to the event grounds, I ran into my friend Edisto Patto. We chatted awhile, looked around a bit, and listened to the band. Then we decided to head over to get in line for lunch before the line was too long. We got there about thirty minutes early and found that at least one hundred others had the same idea. Oh well; chatting with Patto and her husband made the wait time seem quite short. The lunch volunteers had everything very well organized. We were quickly served our lunch and headed off to locate a place to sit. The area near the lunch room



was overly full. So, we decided to walk back to my truck and use the tail gate as a table. When we arrived, we had to wait a bit. There were a few cachers snapping photos while posing beside my decorated truck. That made me feel very proud. I guess I did do a good job after all. We soon sat down and enjoyed our lunch. The pulled BBQ, baked beans, slaw, cookie and sweet tea was all very good and really hit the spot of this hungry cacher. I'm already wishing that I could get to the next Geowoodstock in Seattle, Washington.

GeorgiaTreasureQuester's truck – photo by GTQ

ClanMcCall:

The newly named JoeCashClan, IGJoe, Terry of the Cashrookies and Kevin of the ClanMcCall, spent their GeoWoodstock weekend in a completely different fashion than every other geocacher anywhere near Bell Buckle this holiday weekend. We showed up late to the event due to allure of many nearby caches, shopped the vendors, cached a little bit in the immediate area, ate at the