



Georgia Geocachers Newsletter

February, 2009

In This Issue:

The Georgia Geocachers Association (GGA) publishes this newsletter once a month as a way to keep the membership informed of the events taking place each month. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, reply to this message with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Send comments, complaints, suggestions, and articles to Professor Shorthair through my Geocaching.com profile page or to gganews<at>bellsouth.net.

- The Best of Rebel
- 2008 Georgia Outstanding Caches
- Technical Tidbit
- CafePress GGA Store
- Rebel Chili Cook-off
- February Event Roundup
- Contest!
- GGA Meeting Notes – January, 2009

+++++

The Best of Rebel

The GGA meeting this month will be the annual chili cook-off, an event that was begun by the late Ed Handler, better known to geocachers as Rebel. Rebel died last year about this time; his obituary in the March, 2008 GGA newsletter read:

The GGA announces the death of one of its most colorful and prominent members, Rebel. Ed Handler passed away on February 12 at the age of 56. Rebel was funny, strong-willed, controversial, and helpful, sometimes all at the same time. His cache hides were legendary. We honor him for his service to the GGA; he will be missed.

Appropriately, the chili cook-off will be dedicated to Rebel.

For a couple of years, Rebel wrote a semi-regular column for the newsletter, the Cache Curmudgeon Corner. His column was controversial at times, but there are few GGA members who don't wish it, and its author, were still around. What follows is a selection of some of the most entertaining bits from the CCC. Here is the best of Rebel:

*Geocaching Ethics
Geocaching Courtesy
Geocaching Etiquette
Geocaching Sasquatch*

What do all of the above have in common? (Besides the 'geocaching' prefix, of course.)

Give up?

Aw, it's easy! They all really don't exist.

That's right, they don't exist. What do exist are common ethics, courtesy, and etiquette. The jury is still out on the sasquatch, btw.

Ethics are ethics no matter what the subject or scenario. I've written before about ethics and really don't feel the need to elaborate other than saying that your true ethics come out when you are not being watched. Just because you can get away with something doesn't mean that you should go ahead and do it; after all, who'll be the wiser? You, that's who.

* * * * *

In praise of Skirt Lifters

"Carry on my wayward son, There'll be peace when you are done, Lay your weary head to rest, Don't you cry no more"

Man, I love that song! I first fell in love with it when I went to see Kansas in concert at the then Capitol Center near Washington, DC. I've listened to it, what, a thousand + times maybe?

It was playing on the radio when I started the car after a very long day that started with a 911 call at 3:30 AM and progressed through three hospitals and my mom being scheduled for an operation.

It was late at night when the song came on the Birmingham radio station and to say that I was tired would be a severe understatement. I needed a break, I needed a cache! Having loaded in my PQ before my trip I cranked up my trusty PN20 and sought out the nearest cache.



It was 40 feet away. The only thing within that distance was a lamp post. In the past I've snubbed many a skirt-lifter but not this day nor this cache. It was actually very well thought out. One could park near it in such a way as to block the view of curious muggles. It was hidden on the back side of the lamp post so that grabbing it and returning it was easy peasy.

I signed the log and sat back and thought, "thanks, I needed that!"

* * * * *

Ring, Ring. Ring, Ring.

"Hello!"

"Hi, is this Rebel?"

"Yep, what can I do ya for?"

"This is ???? and I am looking for ???? and I see that you found it in the past. Can you help me?"

"Yep, it was there when I found it. Have you contacted the owner?"

"Nope, I don't have their number. What am I looking for? How is it disguised?"

"I'm sorry but all I can tell you is that it was there when I found it and was a very clever hide."

OK, thanks!" (heavy with sarcasm)

"OK. Bye!"

While not an exact transcript, I do get calls now and then that resemble the above. When I receive calls about my own caches I may give much more information. But, for other folks' caches, I offer no more than confirmation that the cache is still there unless the owner has told me personally that it is OK to reveal more.

* * * * *
"Oh, man. That cache was lame! I'm ashamed to log it as a find! I took the trouble to go into the Wally-World parking lot, lift the skirt and grab the container. Lame, lame, lame. I don't know why folks put caches out like that! But as I said, I'll take the smiley!"

Ever have that talk with yourself or others? Is the fault of the hider or the seeker? Actually, neither is at fault. And, that's because there is no fault.

LPCs have their place and I can live with them. I have the option of ignoring them if I wish and I sometimes do. This is a game (sport? past-time? hobby?) that attracts a wide variety of folks and we shouldn't judge the owner by the cache.

I won't go into the simple, easy, practically a drive-by LPC that thwarted me 32 times. If anyone should be totally against LPCs it should be me and I really don't mind them. If they cause you angst, then just don't do them.

+++++

2008 Georgia Outstanding Caches

The polls are closed, the votes have been counted, and we have the winners. Here are Georgia's Outstanding Caches for 2008, as voted on by the members of the GGA:

2008 Georgia's Must Hit Cache: [Find F.R.E.D. on Stone Mountain \(GCJ9XT\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Cache Title: [Bite the Wax Tadpole \(GC17YM9\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Cache Theme: [Trezure Island \(GC18835\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Cache Hike: [Emery Creek Falls\(GC4D43\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Remarkable Cache Location: [Brasstown Bald Earthcache \(GC17WXM\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Scenic Cache Location: [Valley of the Giants\(GCGQG7\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Hard to Find Cache - Physically: [GA's Well Rounder Cacher \(GCVAPY\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Hard to Find Cache - Mentally: [Fargo North Decoder \(GCNMWG\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Multi-Stage Cache: [Not Worth the Smiley \(GC1C0H4\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Micro Cache: [No Lampost \(GCXN8Z\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Virtual Cache: [Minutemen in Tucker \(GC72AA\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Unknown/Mystery Cache: [A Painful Introspection \(GCHVAQ\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Event Cache: [GGA June Meeting \("The Olympics"\) \(GC1BNHR\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Traditional Cache: [Sunset Rock \(GC130Z7\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Creative Cache: [G.E.E.O. Cache Radio \(GCW8CB\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding First Year Cache Hide: [Slaughter Ambush \(GC1BERH\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding New Cache of the Year: [Confessions of a Recovering Puzzleholic \(GC19NDZ\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Night Cache: [Find F.R.E.D. on Stone Mountain \(GCJ9XT\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Cache Log: [Mertat's Log](#) for [Trezure Island \(GC18835\)](#)

2008 Georgia's Outstanding Waymark: [Cleveland, Ga - GHM 154-4 \(WM1H7\)](#)

Thanks to Stephanie of ParentsofSAM for managing the nominations and election and counting the votes, and thanks to all who made nominations and voted. How many have you found?

+++++

... you can add a Geocache Event to your Outlook or Google calendar?

Technical Tidbit by Joe bids

Did you know...

By clicking onto the symbol immediately to the right of the event date, you can save or open a .vcs file that can add the event to your Microsoft Outlook calendar. If you select the symbol to the immediate right, you will be directed to your Google calendar where the event will be saved. You will have to create the time, however, as the time is within the event description.

+++++



GGA Merchandise from CafePress

Valentine's Day is coming up soon – give your loved a gift from the CafePress GGA store. He or she will look great wearing GGA T-shirts, sweats, hoodies, and hats. Other items for sale include mugs, buttons, bumper stickers, logbooks, tote bags, coasters, teddy bears, and even shirts for your favorite geo-dog. A portion of the proceeds from each sale goes to support the GGA. Check out the catalog at <http://www.cafepress.com/gga> and http://www.cafepress.com/_gga.

+++++

Ed "Rebel" Handler Memorial Chili Cook-off

Join us for the February GGA meeting, which is the Rebel Memorial Chili Cook-off. The meeting will be held on Saturday February 14th from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM in Richard Craig Park in McDonough, 25 miles south of Atlanta. We will eat chili, socialize, eat chili, admire the pots of chili, eat chili, trade coins, and eat more chili. Detailed information for those entering chili in the contest can be found on the cache page. See you there!



http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC1KPRF

+++++

Other February Geocaching Events

FFFM - 3 - 2009 (Event Cache) (GC1FGCC); 2/14/2009 by firefrog69
<http://coord.info/GC1FGCC>

Pete379's Valentines Bash (GC1KQ82); 2/14/2009 by pete379
<http://coord.info/GC1KQ82>

CSRA Geocachers February Meeting (GC1M2HR); 2/16/2009 by CSRA Geocachers & Cruisers
<http://coord.info/GC1M2HR>

The get OYR and join us for a M&G event (GC1M52R); 2/28/2009 by Ford Freak
<http://coord.info/GC1M52R>

+++++

Contest!

A pride of lions....
A gaggle of geese....
A parliament of owls....
An unkindness of
ravens....

These are unusual collective names – names for groups of animals. But what name would you give a group of geocachers? The best suggestion (as judged by redworm, mertat, and Professor Shorthair) will win a geocoin. (We'll try to make it one you don't already have.) Send your suggestion (a _____ of geocachers) to gganews<at>bellsouth.net by midnight of February 20. Put "contest" in the subject line and be sure to include your geonick. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter.

+++++

January GGA Meeting Notes by ParentsofSAM

The January 2009 GGA Meeting was held at the Discovery Center at Callaway Gardens. This was one of the biggest GGA Meetings yet, with 98 people in attendance. There were 61 existing members under 44 geonicks and 25 new members under 20 geonicks.

The day started off before the meeting with the Chattahoochee Valley Cachers (CVCachers) hosting several geocaching classes and a wonderful hot dog lunch for people attending the classes and meeting.

The meeting was begun by introducing the newest members of the Steering Committee, Marietta Gecko and Geomuse, and expressing our appreciation to the Chattahoochee Valley Cachers (CVCachers), TGBear, KurtyBoy and Cheefy for all their work in facilitating this meeting. The speaker for the meeting was Ranger Sam from FDR State Park; he spoke to the group about exciting events happening at FDR and addressed some of the rumors about the future of state parks. We thank Ranger Sam for coming out and spending the morning teaching a class and then returning to speak at the meeting.

After the speaker we had a raffle drawing of many great prizes donated from the Chattahoochee Valley Cachers (CVCachers) and other meeting attendees. We almost needed some mountain goats to help deliver the prizes in the auditorium; luckily we had some children willing to do the running!

After the meeting cachers gathered to chat at the beautiful Discovery Center and many left to go find the many wonderful caches that are on the Callaway Gardens grounds.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Chili Cook-off meeting in McDonough in February