



# Georgia Geocachers Newsletter

June, 2009

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.

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## GeoWoodstock VII !

GeoWoodstock, the world's largest annual mega-event cache, took place the weekend of May 23 right next door to us in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. What was it like? Here are reports from GGA cachers:

### **CSRA Cruisers:**

*Monkeybrad with the Welcome Banner – photo by LZ33*

Oh my gosh!!!! Talk about a wonderful trip!!!! It's 8am Friday morning and we all jump into the geovan to head out for Bell Buckle TN. There are five of us heading up to Bell Buckle: Chipper, SQRT, Oldman, and Monster of the CSRA Cruisers, as well as Geoholic28. British Hummnbyrde, British Reaper, Buggie, and Little Magpie also joined us as we headed out.

We head out towards Thomson Georgia and turn north. We didn't want to take the old boring highway all the way to GW7, so we took



a path that would take us up through Athens, Kennesaw, Canton, Rome, Lookout Mountain, and then on towards GW7. We did really well all the way up through Athens and Kennesaw. It was getting about lunch time, and we wanted to stop and eat. The Brits wanted to keep moving, but we wanted food. We stopped around one PM, had lunch, and continued on to Canton, Rome and Lookout Mountain. We knew that we were getting close on time, but the GPS kept us on track. As we headed on towards Rome, I punched in the direct route to the Meet and Greet, and noticed that we were going to miss the beginning. So, we decided to head straight on to the Meet and Greet. But, we had traveled so far that it was going to take us a long time to get back to any kind of highway for a fast ride. Well, and as things always go, we had to stop. So far the GPS was giving us a 9:05 arrival time. Well I thought that I could at least make that up in speed. But by the time we made the supposed five minute stop, it turned in to a 35 minute stop. Now the arrival time was 9:40. I knew I couldn't make that much time up. So we continued on to our hotel. We knew we weren't going to get to the meet and greet, but we had had about enough for now and wanted to get at least close. As we crossed into Tennessee, we saw a sight that couldn't have been any better for this trip: "Now entering central time zone." Geoholic28 and I both look at each other with amazement. YES!!!! We just gained an hour!!! With our new found time, and renewed excitement, we headed straight for the Meet and Greet. We arrived at about 8:30 to see it still going strong. Geoholic28 saw many cachers that he already knew, and SQRT and I saw many names that we had seen in logs before. We picked up our registration, dropped off our TB's, signed the log, and sat and talked until about 10:30. Then we headed back to the hotel, ate pizza, and went to bed. It was a wonderful first day.



*Downtown Bell Buckle – photo by Geomuse*

We were set to wake up at 6:00 AM Saturday morning for the main event. I wanted to get up early to be at GZ early. This was my first event, so I didn't want to miss anything. The alarm went off; I got up and headed for the shower. After returning, I saw the clock on the night stand. It says 5:30 AM. SQRT had set her alarm clock for 6:00 and not the hotels. Well, hers was still an hour off from the time zone change, so I was up an hour early. Oh well; not wanting to waste time, I dug the rest out of bed and we got ready to go. We headed out and picked up several caches in the area. I think all in all we did about ten before we even got to the event.

We arrived in Bell Buckle to find a line of cars waiting to get into the parking area. As we turned in, JoGPS was waving at everyone as they came in. We parked, gathered our things, and placed the CSRA Banner on the rear of the van. This was the first time the banner had ever been out of the state of Georgia. So I hoped that many, many people would discover the TB on the banner. As we walked toward GZ, there were several homes all painted up and deteriorated in pastels. It looked just like an old town back many years ago. They were so cute. It was so neat walking down the street and just knowing what was to come just around the corner. We walked a

bit further and there was the wonderful GeoWoodstock sign hanging from the stage. We had finally arrived!!!! We went in and picked up our TB's right off the start. They had things so well organized in the TB room. All of the TB's were sorted by destination. You presented your tickets that you were given when you dropped off your TB's. Inside the room were buckets and buckets of TB's all sorted by destination. You just picked up ones that you knew you could help out, gave your tickets to the man at the door, and you were on your way - a very cool way to handle TB's. As you exited there was a table with discovery-only TB's. There were some really neat ones there too. Just behind the TB building was the open GeoWoodstock field. It almost looked like the fields at the original Woodstock that I had only seen in pictures. The vendors lined the outside of the field, the stage was up front and bales of hay were all round. There were all kinds of food vendors as well. SQRT traded pathtags with everyone she could find that had one, and I walked around to all the vendors. I talked with many, many wonderful people from all parts of the country. We took in some of the local sights as well. The little town was so neat. There were a few restaurants and some general type stores also. The post office was across the street and was the smallest of them all. We found several of the local caches that had been placed as well. One was at a red caboose. There was almost a line to sign the log. There was a museum set up for past GeoWoodstocks. Going through there and seeing all of the different logs and



*CSRA Cruisers  
and gang*

*photo by CSRA  
Cruisers*

memorabilia was great. I only wished that I could have been to some of the previous ones. Lunch was served at the local event hall. It was great Bar-B-Que. You didn't have to wait long in line at all. One's things got moving, you were served in no time at all. They really knew how to make things great!!

As things wound down, they started with the auctions and giveaways. They had many very rare and exciting things for auction. They were even auctioning off kilts. It was a sight to see Monkeybrad in a kilt. For the grand finale, JoGPS came on stage for the announcement of the location of GeoWoodstock VIII. "Next year we are shutting down Groundspeak for a week. See you in Seattle, Washington in July of 2010." And with that, GeoWoodstock VII came to a close. We all had a wonderful time and I can't wait to see everyone in Seattle. Until next time, I hope to see you in the woods.

### **BUSHBOB and GreatT:**

The Tennessee countryside was beautiful as we geocached for two days before GeoWoodstock VII. The area where the event was held was an area that looks like time has forgotten it, but the reality is that we all wish to live in an area like this. The organizers there were hard at work getting ready for the influx of geocachers from around the world. The Mayor was in on getting ready (the mayor actually sang at the event), as well as the fire chief and many other residents who helped ready the area for the event. We ate two meals in the "World Famous" Bell Buckle Cafe and the food was delicious. Our most memorable geocache was nearby in a Confederate cemetery. Just after we arrived, "Taps" was played and it made us realize that we should thank and remember all who have given their lives for their beliefs in this wonderful