



Georgia Geocachers Newsletter

May, 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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Cache Reviews by erik88l-r

When I was asked to write a short article on what is involved in cache approvals I felt honored to be asked, then giggled a bit, as we stopped "approving" caches years ago.

Due to legal ramifications related to that word, we now only "review" caches for publication. We don't approve the cache or the cache location, but check things out to the best of our abilities to be sure they meet the geocaching.com guidelines.

Georgia's
cache
reviewers:
mtn-man,
gpsfun,
and erik88l-r.

photo by
papermanone
& catlover



Like real estate agents say, it's "location, location, location". Cache reviewers check submitted caches to be sure the location isn't too close to another cache, isn't too far from the owner's home coords, and isn't in a location that prohibits caches.

Those three "location" topics each deserve some elaboration.

- First, the location from other caches has to be at least .1 mile, or 528 feet. That applies to not only other caches, but also any physical stages of multistage caches, and final stages of both multis and mystery caches. For that reason we ask cache owners to document those locations using the "additional waypoints" link on the cache page. Cache reviewers have tools that automatically flag proximity conflicts for those physical stages, but "virtual stages" that use information on existing objects like plaques and signs are exempt. However, that's for existing info on signs or plaques, not a tag you add to one, which is considered a cache stage like a micro cache you place with coords or clues to the next stage.
- The second locational criteria I mentioned was distance from the owner's home coords. We can't see the home coords you enter on your profile page, but the system does give us the distance from there to the cache coords. So if you live in Atlanta and place a cache over a hundred miles away in Florida, chances are pretty good that you'll be asked how you're planning to maintain that cache. By entering your home coordinates, it will not only speed up your cache reviews, but lets you view nearby caches with a single click, shows the distance and direction of other caches from your location, and allows you to receive weekly notifications of new caches that are near you.
- The third location related problem we look for are caches in places that prohibit caches, or have restrictions on them. Some examples can be found here: <http://www.ggaonline.org/gadodont.html> Other places are detailed in the geocaching guidelines <http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx#offlimit> One additional group of sensitive locations in the southeastern US is cemeteries. Due to problems with caches in what were assumed to be abandoned cemeteries in South Carolina we won't knowingly publish one unless the cemetery caretaker has given his OK.
- We'll also look at the map to be sure things make sense. If a cache is listed as being in Georgia but the map puts it in Alabama, for example, we'll put it on hold and enquire about the accuracy of the coordinates.

Beyond reviewing the location, we review the cache page text to be sure it's family friendly, doesn't promote an agenda of any kind, and doesn't advertise a business. We'll also look at any background images, web links, and uploaded photos to be sure they don't run counter to the guidelines. We don't correct spelling errors, unless it's something pretty flagrant. A cache hidden in a "lick and lock" container will probably get corrected, but that's about it. We don't do spell Czechs. There have been some recent changes to the rules concerning commercial content, so be sure to review those. For example, you can't use the name of a business in the cache name, so "Wal-mart Cache" wouldn't fly, 'though Wally-mart Cache" would be ok.

By the way, without digressing too much, I used the word "rules" in reference to commercial content above, though in general we use "guidelines" to refer to the "do's and don'ts" listed here:

<http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>

If you read those carefully you'll see that nearly all really are "guidelines" and terms like "may" or "may not" are often used, rather than stronger language like "can" or "can not". That is, until you get to the section on commercial content. Geocaching.com feels strongly enough about that topic that they don't allow the reviewers any wiggle room and ask that they be asked permission by the cache owner before submitting anything that might be considered commercial.

One last thing we look for are any "notes to reviewer" you add to the cache page. So be sure to elaborate on anything that might not be clear. If you have a local maintainer for that cache you placed in Florida, or have permission for the cache you put in a cemetery, this is the place to supply that info and speed up the review process. This is also a place to ask any questions related to the cache.

I'll end this with one little hint that goes back to the very first topic I mentioned – distance from other caches. I often get questions from geocachers who had a cache declined as being too close to another cache to check some coords for them before they place another cache. I can do that, but the best way to do it is to start a new cache page and enter those coords. Name the cache "test page" or something else that suggests it's only a test. Don't activate the cache for

review and publication, but send me a link to it (or the GC???? number) and ask me to review it as if it were ready. Before you do so make the obvious test yourself by clicking on the "Find nearest cache" link to be sure it's not too close to another cache. I can use all the review tools to be sure it's not too close to the final stage of someone's mystery cache, and will let you know if it is. If you'd like additional spots checked enter them as "additional waypoints" as if they were multicache stages. If it's fine I'll let you know, and the cache page you initiated will show up in the system as a work in progress so I won't publish another cache there before you place yours. Just don't abuse the system and stake out places that you won't put caches in within the next few weeks. Also don't ask me to repeatedly check locations around someone's mystery cache as you play a game of "battleship" to zero in on the location.



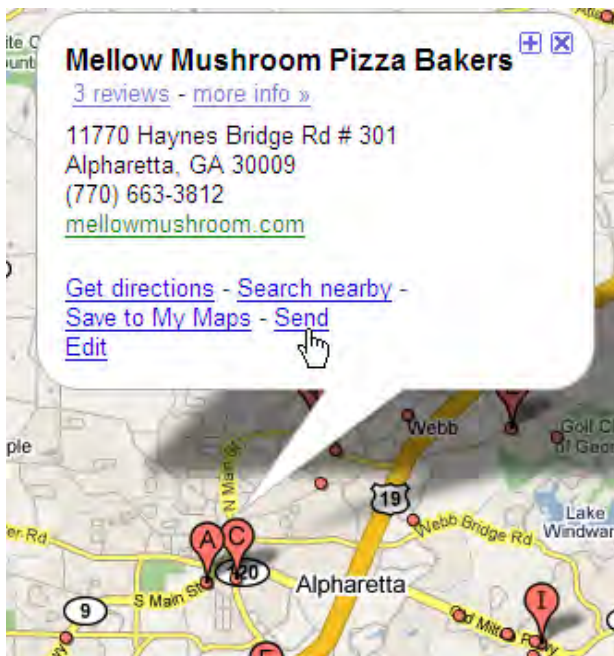
Let me know if you have any questions.

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Technical Tidbit by Joebids

Did you know...

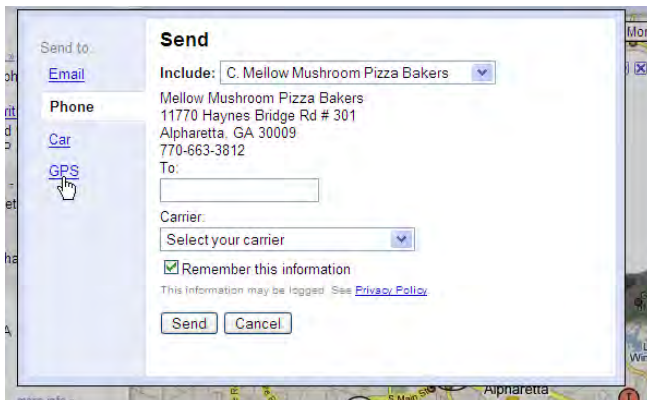
...that hotel or restaurant you just looked up on Google maps can easily be sent to your GPS receiver, phone or email account?

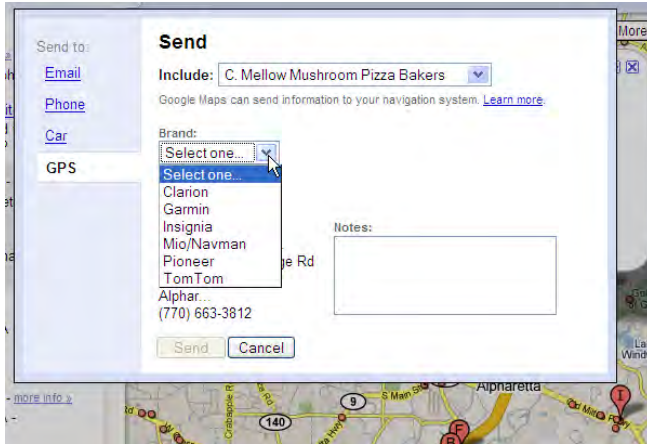


Have you ever looked up a business or something on Google Maps and either printed it out or jotted the information down and quickly headed out the door for it? Well, here's another way to get that information quickly and easily even without having an upper-end, web-surfing, data-downloading 'I-', 'you-' or 'me-' phone or such.

Look up something in Google maps; let's say, "Pizza Alpharetta, GA". We get a list of matches and choose "Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers". When the information bubble pops up on the map, select the 'Send' text link to start the data exchange to your device.

You're now on the 'Send' page. Here you can choose to send your selected item's information to a number of devices. By default, 'phone' is selected. I sent the information to my really cheap, not suited for surfing, cell phone and I got everything and more. Name, address and phone number of the establishment. I got even more when I chose to see the internet version which includes maps.



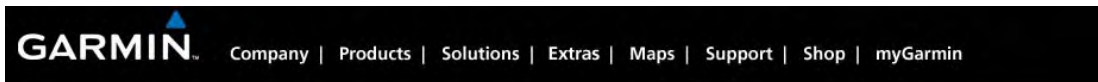


You can send the information to your GPS receiver, too. On this page, select the 'GPS' text link and choose your GPS model. From what I can tell, it's a short list of supported GPS models, one of which is of course Garmin. Once you've chosen your model, select the 'Send' button.

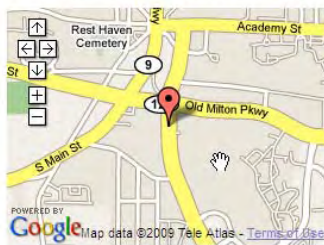
You've been directed to the Garmin web site and if you have the Garmin browser driver installed already, there will be a 'Send to GPS' button. Select this and the Name and coordinates will be sent to your GPS'r ready for you to navigate away. If you don't have that driver already, there's a link on this page to get it.

If you wish, select the 'here' text link and go back to your search for more items to choose and send to your GPS'r.

Happy navigating.



We've made it even easier for you to navigate on the go by downloading a specific address or location directly to your Garmin GPS device. Simply review the information below to make sure it is correct and then send it to your device. You'll find the new data saved in your Favorites folder.



Mellow Mushroom Pizza Bakers

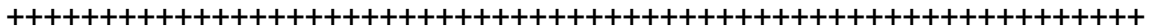
11770 Haynes Bridge Rd # 301
 Alpharetta, GA 30009
 (770) 663-3812

[Send to GPS](#)

quick links

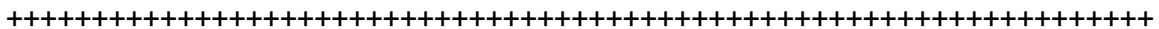
- [How-To Video](#)
- [Garmin Communicator Plugin](#)

Found : GPSTMap60CS



May GGA Meeting

The [May GGA Meeting](#) will be held in the Gartrelle Nash Pavilion at the Lilburn City Park from 2:00 until 4:00 on Saturday, May 9. There will be an informal "What's In Your Backpack" roundtable. Please come prepared to add to the discussion concerning what you feel are essential survival and first aid items, as well as other items you carry in order to be a prepared geocacher. See you there!



Spring CITO Event



Come out and join us as the [GGA helps to clean up one of our GA State Parks](#). We will be helping to clean up Red Top Mountain State Park this year as we join in the world wide Geocaching.com Cache In Trash Out clean up day. We ask that you bring gloves with you for picking up trash, and we will provide trash bags for the clean up. We will also have water at our staging area.

Each year we have done a great job with aiding one of our local land managers and we know this year will be no different. Come out and show support for our GA State Parks! We will work from 10 AM until around 12 Noon.



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Other May Geocaching Events

[2nd Annual Thomson Treasure Hunt Kickoff Party](#) by CSRA Geocachers – May 1

[2nd Annual Thomson Treasure Hunt](#) by CSRA Geocachers (GC1ND48) – May 2

[2nd Annual Thomson Treasure Hunt CITO](#) by South Carolina Geocachers Association (GC1Q289)– May 2

[SCSG Georgia Poker Run II](#) by Harthunter (GC1KT97) – May 2

[Four Alarm Cache \(WWFM V\)](#) by mMuggz (GC1Q7ZM) – May 2

[WWFM V - Columbus, GA](#) by Kurtyboy (GC1P74R) – May 2

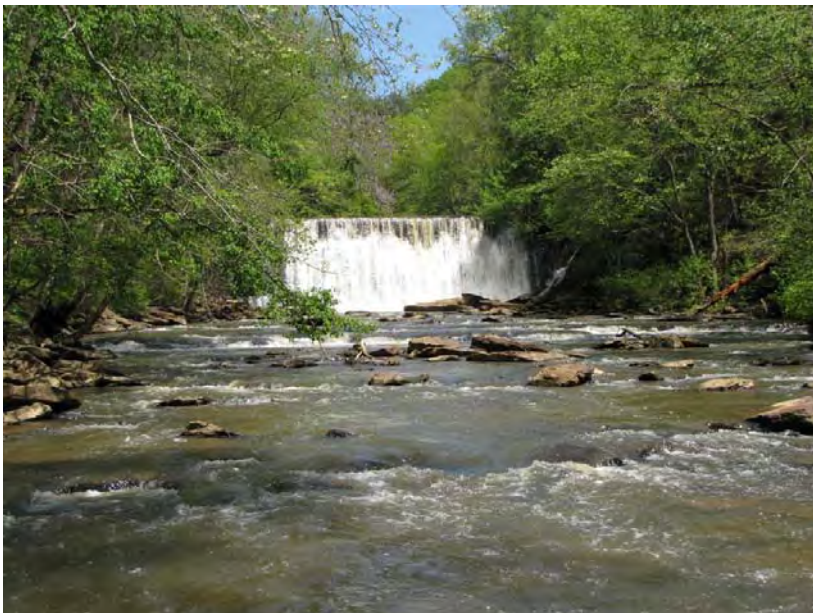
[2nd Annual TTH....The Morning After](#) by CSRA Geocachers (GC1Q1FZ) – May 3

[The Second Annual Splash Bash](#) by tybeany (GC1QBWZ) – May 15

[Lil' UGA 1st CITO](#) by Lil'_UGA (GC1PCKQ) – May 16

[See See you before GeoWoodstock-VII](#) by TheWoodenRadion & StevenV (GC1PHTE) – May 21

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Springtime caching in Roswell: 1800's Mill & Falls

photo by Thorny1