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#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR—EVENTS

Geocaching's Anniversary Meet'n'Mingle, May 3, Anchorage

WWFM X - MatSu Valley, May 4

WWFM X - Anchorage AK - Town Square Flash Mob 4, May 4 WWFM X-Fairbanks AK Airport Road Corner Flash Mob,

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WWFM X - Top of the World - Ice Planet Hoth, May 4

World Migratory Bird Day Flash Mob, May 11

GeoWoodstock XI or Bust !!!, May15

Cache Hunting FUNdamentals - Anchorage, May 16

Cache Hunting FUNdamentals – Fairbanks, May 16

HOBO CITO Kick-Off Flash Mob - Homer, May 17

HOBO CITO Campout - Karen Hornaday Park, Homer, May 17

HOBO CITO #1 - Karen Hornaday Park Cleanup. Homer, May 18

HOBO CITO #2 - Soldotna Creek Park Cleanup, May 18

**HOBO CITO Campout - Hidden Lake Campground, May 18** 

HOBO CITO #3 - Hidden Lake Campground Cleanup May 19

HOBO CITO #4 - Girdwood Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, May 19

National Trails Day Flash Mob, Fairbanks, June 1

#### RECENT EVENT HAPPENINGS

National Hanging Out Day Flash Mob, Fairbanks, April 19, Down Town Juneau Cache-Clean-up!, April 20 International CITO Weekend - Kincaid Park Kleanup, April 20 Almost-Earth Day CITO, Juneau, April 21 International CITO weekend Alaska style, Portage, April 21



#### President's Corner

by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

One of GeocacheAlaska! Inc's principal goals involves educating the public about geocaching. This is done through public speaking at various venues, by holding events at the request of

interested parties, and by working as volunteers at established public events hosted by other public organizations. We've received two requests for 'educational' help for the month of June. Events Committee chair Roberta Bromlow (Polgera) is coordinating a series of teaching activities to occur on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds in Palmer during the statewide Girl Scouts **Encampment**. Wes Skinner (NorthWes) has been contacted by AK Dept of Fish and Game (as the result of a conversation by Leroy Willis - Li1gray - with ADFG employees) to find 4 volunteers to assist with geocaching workshops held as part of **Outdoor Youth Days** activities on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in helping with either of these activities please contact the named board members by email (addresses are listed on the 'contact us' section of the geocachealaska.org website). We'd particularly like to see lady volunteers for these events, as an example of how geocaching is an outdoor activity equally enjoyed by all ages and genders.

During a geocaching demonstration, one of the necessary tools is a GPS unit for each participant. In past years we've borrowed or shared units as needed. The resulting hodgepodge of different makes and models of units complicated the set-up and instruction process greatly. However, thanks to the generosity of a local engineering firm, GeocacheAlaska! Inc. has received more than three dozen Garmin GPSMAP 76Cx units. Each waterproof lightweight GPS is equipped with the SIRF high-sensitivity antenna, a 128mb microSD card, and a color display. This gift from LGL Research Associates Inc. equips us with robust common-platform modern GPS units which are easy to set up and use for our geocaching demonstration and training events. Geocache Alaska! thanks LGL Research Associates for their donation of these GPS units!

# 2013 GeocacheAlaska! Pathtags

The 2013 GeocacheAlaska! pathtags have arrived and are now being sold at events in Alaska through the end of May. Beginning in June, after the 2013 GeocacheAlaska! geocoin arrives, online sales to cachers worldwide will begin. The pathtags priced at \$10 per set of five for Sourdough members of GeocacheAlaska! and \$11.25 to all others, shipping and handling not included.

From left to right, top to bottom, the tags that commemorate GeocacheAlaska!'s 2013 cetacean theme are:

Gray Whale, by WeBBleR, shiny silver

Pacific White-sided dolphins, by qaplake, black nickel

Humpback Whale, by WeBBleR, shiny gold

Orcas, by qaplake, copper

Narwhal, by Old Man 124, shiny gold

500 of each tag were produced. For more information about each tag, click on the tags' hyperlink above to browse the tags' profiles on pathtags.com.





# Reviewer's Corner-Spring Cleaning

by Michael Malvick/Greatland Reviewer

I just completed Spring cleaning for most of the 5000+ Alaskan geocaches to help get things ship shape for when cachers who hibernate during the winter exit their homes and visiting cachers flock to the state like snow geese. This process involved reviewing the status of more than 450 caches that have been disabled for more than a couple of months, had a Reviewer Note posted on October 2012 for any number of issues, or had three or more consecutive DNFs after a consistent string of finds.

Caches that received a Reviewer Note in October 2012 to which the Cache Owner had not responded and still appeared to have issues were archived. This resulted in 89 cache archivals. Cache Owners who still have an interest in maintaining an archived cache may request to have their cache unarchived by contacting me through my Reviewer Profile (the link is in the archival note) and including the GC# of the cache. Prior to this article being published, I received and have honored three requests to unarchive caches caught in the sweep.

Caches that have been disabled at some point during the past six months received a Reviewer Note requesting the Cache Owner to fix the cache problem and reenable the cache or archive the cache. Caches with a string of DNFs following a consistent find history received a different Reviewer Note requesting the Cache Owner to verify the cache is still viable before a cacher writes a "Needs Archived" log to the cache page. Later this Spring or Summer, I will review these caches and archive those caches that have ongoing problems with no Cache Owner engagement. Cache Owner engagement can be demonstrated with a Note log written to the cache page indicating intent to maintain the cache or an Owner Maintenance log reporting that the issue(s) have been resolved. There are currently more than 400 caches in Alaska that have the "Needs Maintenance" attribute due to a cacher writing a "Needs Maintenance" log on the cache page. The Needs Maintenance log is intended to be a means for cachers to communicate cache issues to the Cache Owner without Reviewer involvement. Many of the caches with the red wrench (see last week's Geocaching.com

Weekly Update e-mail for more information) \( \sqrt{o} \) or white cross

attribute are in fine shape and just need the attribute removed. This may be done by writing an "Owner Maintenance" log to the cache page. In the past, I have tried to coach cachers by writing Reviewer Notes to cache pages with the Needs Maintenance attribute with instructions on how to remove the attribute (visit the cache page, click on "log your visit" and select "Owner Maintenance" log), but very few cachers followed up by taking the necessary steps. I may over time try another round of Reviewer Notes, but it's very time consuming for a low Cache Owner response rate and it is not a Groundspeak expectation that Reviewers manage caches with the Needs Maintenance attribute.

Finally, as more cachers try to shoehorn additional caches into already cache dense areas, the number of requests of me to perform proximity cecks has increased significantly. From now on, I request that cachers wanting coordinates checked create a cache page and load the page with the coordinates and additional waypoints of interest. The cacher should also include a Reviewer Note that reads, "Proximity check only, do not publish." This gives the cacher a head start on their cache page, helps me keep track of who is trying to reserve what spot while they work up a puzzle or multicache, and saves me the effort of inserting the test coordinates into my own test cache page. Doing this also helps me keep cache correspondence straight because all "conversation" occurs via Reviewer Notes that subsequently get archived once the cache is published. In advance, thanks for your help with this.

# International CITO Weekend - Kincaid Park Kleanup

by Wes Skinner/NorthWes

April 20<sup>th</sup> dawned clear and unseasonably cool at Kincaid Park. By 10am as cachers arrived to participate in one of Alaska's five events held during the International CITO Weekend the temperature hadn't yet reached 40 degrees. Because of this year's cool spring and late snowfall, much of the area right around the Chalet was still under piles of snow (ski trails were in good enough form that Ladybug Kids and Skifast strapped on slats and spent time after the event enjoying spring nordic skiing!) Nonetheless attendees turned to and managed to come up with well over a hundred pounds of mostly small trash from the areas which had melted out.



It was great to see everyone - and put faces to names meeting cachers new to the Anchorage area - and talk about all the upcoming events we have on tap for summer. By mutual acclamation Wolfmaster & Coloreido scored big as 'Trashiest Cachers' while Skifast (our redoubtable British Columbia member who caches here more frequently than some locals!) scored the 'Longest-Mile Cacher' award. AlaskaCariboozer & SnowySwan picked up the 'Best Recruiter' award as they deployed the 3 WLD1s (I love that handle), followed closely by Li1gray and his crew of grandsons. More than twenty persons were on hand to make this event a success. Each participant who filed an 'attended' log received a special 'souvenir' for their page at geocaching.com!

# **HOBO CITO Camping Adventure – May 17-19**

by Scott Aleckson/SSO JOAT

A brainstorm of like-minded geocachers on the GeocacheAlaska! forums worked over an idea to bring a series of CITO events to the Kenai Peninsula on the weekend of May 18-19. The likes of SSO JOAT, NeverSummer, The\_Firefly, Fuzzybelly, and Ladybugkids carried on discussions in our forums for several weeks to develop the idea of a traveling CITO road show, which we have christened the "HOBO CITO" series. This weekend will be full of events starting in Homer and ending in Girdwood. We would love to have your company along the way.

The weekend will start Friday evening in Homer with a kick-off flash mob at Starvin Marvin's Pizza at the base of the Spit. Meet on the patio at 6:15PM for the flash mob event, which will then spill into the restaurant for a dinner party (Dutch treat, so bring some \$\$). From there, we will go up to the Karen Hornaday Park and setup our individual camp sites. Folks joining the campout need to bring tent, sleeping bags, and other "backyard camping" gear that they think they need. For those who may have to work on Friday and head to Homer with a late start, we have pushed our campground social event back to 9PM. We'll all gather at a central camping spot to socialize, enjoy a favorite beverage (BYOB), have some snacks, and tell tall tales about our geocaching adventures of seasons past.

The first CITO event will be on Saturday morning at 9AM at Karen Hornaday Park. We should be able to make quick work of cleaning the area up and breaking camp. We'll draw for some door prizes and then load up our respective geo-rigs to head north with time to stop for lunch and a cache or two along the way to Soldotna.

The second CITO event will be on Saturday afternoon at 2PM in the Soldotna Creek Park. We'll meet at the picnic pavilion, form up and make quick work of cleaning the place up. Again, there will be a door prize drawing at the end of this event and then we'll load up for the next leg of our road trip. You'll again have plenty of time to grab some dinner, camping supplies, and a cache or two along the way north to the Hidden Lake Campground.

On Saturday evening, we'll have another campground social event starting at 8PM at the Hidden Lake Campground, which is located 3.5 miles in on the north Skilak Loop road (the entrance furthest east, or toward Cooper Landing). Like the Homer campsite social, we'll spend the evening gathered around the campfire telling tall tales over your favorite snacks and beverages (BYOB).

Sunday morning will see our third CITO event at the Hidden Lake Campground starting at 9AM. We'll spend a couple hours picking up the site and will once again follow this with a door prize drawing. All the trash we collect here will be hauled to the Cooper Landing transfer site on our way up the road. There will be plenty of time to grab a bite to eat and a cache or two on the way to Girdwood.

The final CITO site will be our GeocacheAlaska! Adopt-A-Highway section of the Seward highway from Girdwood extending about 2 miles west. We'll meet at the pullout (see GZ waypoint) for a mandatory safety briefing and to don our reflective vests. This final site has some additional DOT rules, so there are no dogs or children under 11 allowed to participate. This is the first of 3 mandated CITO cleanups that GCAK must perform on this section of highway every year.

This is sure to be a fun-filled weekend with 4 CITO and 3 regular Events. We hope to see you there!

# Tips for Article Submission by The Editor/Scobey

Most of the time spent in preparing the newsletter each month is reformatting articles. You can help be following these tips:

- Please use Times New Roman
- Use 10 point font
- Don't use bold or italics
- Paragraph should be 1.0 spacing
- Left justify text

Please continue to submit not later than 5 days prior to the end of the month.

Thank you to this month's contributors!

### 11th Annual International CITO Weekend ALASKA STYLE

by Scott Sagraves/Fuzzybelly

Somewhere in south central Alaska, just outside of the beautiful Anchorage bowl, down turnagain arm and around the end of the inlet, next to an ice covered cool running creek, On a tiny pull off with a big sign, a group of cachers gathered one early spring day to earn smileys while out CITOing a wonderful part of the world.

GeocacheAlaska and Fuzzybelly had called on the group to help do a little scrub down on our mother Earth for the 11th annual international CITO weekend which was held all over the world, and attended by cachers everywhere, none of whom had as much fun as we did, fore fuzzybelly was needing a good scrubbing too.

Once all the cachers had arrived, got their fill of coffee, cocoa and Mrs. Fuzzy's famous male and female banana bread, everyone gathered outside to get their TOTT's. Raingear, garbage pickerupers, and garbagebags where all gathered. But before they scattered, fuzzy climbed atop the RV and once again looked over those gathered, spread his arms, and bestowed everyone, "his people". After dodging a few snowballs from his faith, loving followers, fuzzy sent his people off. They scattered in all different directions hunting not cache containers, but scraps of garbage, and all with the same enthusiasm as seeking hidden smileys.

Both of the AK Hillbillies headed up the hill, past the sign, and into the woods where they found bottles of all sorts and even stumbled across an actual cache. Hey, an unexpected smiley, that's great, and a first time accidental find for the billies. The full burtonsinak hit both sides of the road even WITH a twisted ankle on 3/8. Now that's dedication. They gathered up car parts of all years trying to make a 1954, 55, 56, 57, automobile. Akgh519, dmzlstone ,and Glenn.fish worked their way down the trail above Ingram creek picking up gun shells all over the place stopping short of the people shooting up ahead. They got a bag so full 519 could hardly lug it back. Coloreido and wolfamaster1 tidied up the the parking lot area then helped out on the roadsides. Papa of AlaskaVans, akjoey, and fuzzy headed into the woods behind the lot finding targets made of paper, the remains of computers that where shot to peaces, and plastic bottles filled with holes. After an hour of combing the area like dedicated archeologists all the cachers meet back at GZ to load it all up in the Hillbillies rig. They'd offered so kindly to haul it to the dump.....thank you so much.

Back at the RV more of Mrs. Fuzzy's deserts where readily consumed, cherry chip cake and the remains of the banana bread flew off the tables. Then it was time for the real fun to begin. Akjoey drew papavan for FTF honors,. Coloreido took home a CITO themed prize next. Glennfish scored the main prize of a CITO coin, it's uncanny how his daughter will always pull a family member as a winner.

The grand finally was the scrubbing down of the filthy fuzzybelly. Akgh519 took on the challenge giving him a good scrub down on his back and his burn. Attired in his bath towel and bath cap, while wearing earrings of colored loofah, fuzzy received a wonderful ear cleaning with q-tips, and heal sanding with a stone. And to finish, was rinsed by Glenn.fish with snowballs down the front and back of his shirt, rubbing it in as to make sure of a good cleaning. Soon it was time for all the scrubbing bubbles to head back home. Everyone left with a smiley, everyone left with a special geocaching souvenir, and everyone left knowing they'd had a blast doing their part for the 11th annual international CITO weekend.





#### Un Cacher Américain à Paris by Michael Malvick/Ladybug Kids

After my all too brief visit to northern Germany, I bid my host Aeon "auf Wiedersehen" and took the intercity train from Bremen to Hamburg where I switched to the U-bahn which took me directly to the Hamburg Flughafen (airport). From there, I flew to Dusseldorf and then on to Paris Charles de Gaulle aéroport, where I boarded the train to Paris and then the Paris Metro to within a few blocks of my hotel on Rue de Rivoli. After spending the better part of eight hours to travel from Bremen to Paris using two local trains, an intercity train, two airplanes, and the subway, I realized I would have been better off taking a night train from Bremen to Paris, which would have delivered me directly into the heart of Paris earlier in the day and saved Aeon a way too early wakeup call.

Anyway, once at my Metro stop, I climbed the stairs out of the Châtelet (one of the Metro's oldest stops, opening in 1900), and entered a teeming throng of people moving every which way in a pouring rain. After pulling my rolling bag for about fifty meters, I realized I was in for a difficult trek if I didn't make some adjustments. So, I dove into a phone booth to escape the crush of people, pulled out my rain jacket, unzipped the straps for my rolling bag, tossed the bag on my back and re-entered the melee on one of Paris' most famous and busiest streets. With my bag on my back and my rain jacket keeping me dry, I had a much easier time of going with the flow and quickly arrived at my hotel less than ten minutes later...or so I thought. I had the hotel's coordinates in my GPS and its street address, but at first, I could not find the entrance. Back and forth, and forth and back I went three or four times until I realized the entrance I sought was one skinny door sandwiched between two other business fronts. I squeezed through the door, entered the reception area, and greeted the cheerful desk clerk. Once we figured out his English was better than my French, I was quickly registered and sent up to the room on the top (seventh) floor of the building, that was accessed only via a very tight, steep spiral stairway. Remember how the entrance of the hotel was only about the width of the door? The entire hotel was about that wide and a hallway ran off each tiny landing and branched to just two or three rooms. Once at the top landing, it was easy to find my room which I entered and just had to chuckle at the retro purple and orange furnishings and purple wall décor. I'd intentionally eschewed the Marriott, which is my company's overseas preferred hotel to experience something more "local" and local I got. I shed my rain jacket, set my luggage on the rack, and opened the window in the eave and was treated to a view across the rooftops of Paris. Then, I sought out the fire escape and secondary exit as I always do after settling into new digs and realized, after finding neither, that if a fire broke out, all I could do is hang out on the back balcony and hope for the best as the building burned around me. C'est la vie!

With half an afternoon and the evening ahead of me, I quickly collected my camera, GPS, and some geocaching travelers and returned to the street. As soon as I stepped into outside air, I smelled crepes cooking in a sidewalk vendor's cart and I realized I was very hungry after all that travel and only one small sandwich on the airplane after breakfast in the Hamburg airport. I strolled over and after perusing the menu and discussing how hungry I was with the cooks, ordered a crêpe hamburger. Apparently, the rain had dampened their business and they were thrilled to cook for something for someone, even if it was an American who spoke French more like it was Spanish. I muddled my way through the order, making it clear that I wanted the works. They loaded up a 16-inch crepe with ground beef (at least I hope it was... for all I know, it was ground horse because after all, I was in France where just about anything is eaten any way), onions, peppers, cheese, and other goodies, rolled it into a cone, wrapped newspaper around it, and doused everything liberally with mayonnaise. "Mon dieux," it was the best-tasting food I'd enjoyed in a long time!







With lunch in hand, I wandered down the street toward the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), to try to clear up a DNF from my last visit to L'hôtel de ville. However, the find was not going to happen today with a big demonstration going on in front of City Hall leading to a greatly enhanced police presence. Juxtaposed with that crowd was the idyllic scene of families and couples skating on the ice rink and riding the triple decker carousel. I sat on a bench to watch both bits of local "entertainment" while I finished my crepe, and then headed to the Metro to a point five miles or so from

hotel so I could take a walking/caching tour of Paris neighborhoods off the beaten path back to my lodging.

I rode to Metro to Chaumont and walked uphill to the high point of Parc du Belleville, which held the one cache large enough for travelers within my search radius for the day and in the summertime features exquisite floral displays. After taking in the view, I found the one trail into the park the was open (all others were closed because the relatively steep grades were covered with ice from recent snow melt) and headed for <a href="Parc du Belleville">Parc du Belleville</a> cache. Once I found it, I had to wait out numerous muggles, including a posse of a half-dozen gendarme (constables). I dropped off a traveler for an Anchorage cacher, took some photos, and continued through the park to Notre-Dame-

de-la-Croix. This cache site features a less famous church dedicated to "Notre Dame," but it is quite impressive nontheless. Unfortunately, I arrived after the doors were locked for the day, so I settled for a walking tour of the outside.

My next cache stop was la Bellevilloise, site of a workers' commune founded in 1877 and featuring a store, café, and public meeting rooms. Also on the building is one of the mosaic works by anonymous artist "Space Invader," who has installed his artwork at 1000 Paris locations. Darkness was falling and I ended up with DNFs on my next two hunts, but got back on the right track by finding a 366-day Challenge and a nice pocket park cache commemorating







playwrite and poet <u>Jean Aicard</u>. After rounding up some take-out Indian food, I headed to my room for a good night's sleep before the next day's work meetings in Paris suburb Rueil-Malmaison, home of Napoleon's first wife, Josephine, now a Napoleonic museum.

My meetings went well and I had a couple hour break before dinner, so I walked over to Ile des Impressionnistes (Island of the Impressionists) to get some fresh air and find a few caches. Along the way, I hunted for and found Le ponton de Rueil-Malmaison , but not before a van pulled to a stop and four guys hustled out concerned that I was leaning off the dock looking for someone who had fallen into the river. They didn't leave until I showed them my GPS, the cache, and answered affirmatively (and





truthfully) that I was a scientist. Apparently satisfied I hadn't thrown a body into the river, they shook my hand and continued on their way. This section of the Seine was frequented by French Impressionist painters and there are interpretive signs along the pathway

featuring the works of artists such as Monet, Renior and others. Also on the island is the Mon petit poney (My Little Pony) letterbox hybrid cache, placed appropriately enough, close to a covered riding arena frequented by young girls who train their ponies.

The next morning, I ate a full breakfast in the basement of my mini-hotel and headed out on a mission to find <a href="CASUS BELLI">CASUS BELLI</a> that had thwarted me on two previous attempts. During DNF number two the previous evening, NorthWes attempted to coach me to a find using spoiler photos and the definition of "encorbellement" (a balcony hanging over the alley) from nearly 4700 miles away, but the gate to the alleyway was locked. This morning, I returned to the scene of the crime (a murder was committed here) to



find the gate open and I made a quick find of the cleverly hidden cache. Although I did write my logs in English, I did pick up an additional bit of French during this trip. Rather than "TFTC," the French sign their logs "MPLC," or "Merci pour le cache!" With the DNF assuaged, I returned to my hotel, collected my luggage, and rode the Metro to the train to the airport to fly to Zurich via Vienna to spend a few days with Worlddiver and his family in Switzerland before heading home.

#### A FUZZYBELLY THANK YOU SHOUT OUT by Scott Sagraves/fuzzybelly

I'd like to give a big THANK YOU!!!! from deep down in my fuzzy part, to those who offered their help with manning a table at Wolfmaster1's UAA gear swap gathering.

As some had heard (at two events. OK we were a little loud. inside joke) As a class assignment wolfy was tasked by teachers at UAA to ask different groups to volunteer time during the gear swap. They would host a table where folks could wander up and ask questions of that particular groups activity.

Well I figured this would be a great thing for GeoAK members to help out with so I sent out a mailing to a few of my caching friends because I knew I could count on them. Well what do you think happened then? I got e-mail replies of those wanting to help of course.

\*Cavyguy and FlightriskAk where the first to jump on board by offering help, now these two love talking caching. Then came the burtons, that's right, that's plural, all 8/8 of them volunteered to help at the gear swap. Not long after that the wonderful shotgunsgm group called and said they'd like to help out too. Before I knew it we had a group of happy cachers together to help.

And that's why I'm writing this article, because it was so great to see people wanting to help out another caching friend.

Thank you so much you all. You really are awesome.

P.S. I'll be calling for a little help from now and then, so everyone look forward to an e-mail showing up in your boxes:)

\*at the time of writing this article these wonderful folks had volunteered. Thank you to anyone else who showed up to help too.

# [GEO] Professor Moriarity contacting scobey from Geocaching.com

Scobey (You fiend!)

As editor of the newsletter, you may be interested in the following trivia:

Word on the street is that the Alaska top 10 leader board is due for a 4.2 (on the Richter Scale) shake-up this week.

Benevolently Yours,

PM



# FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

Follow GeocacheAlaska! Inc. on <u>Facebook</u>! Stay in touch and share your activities with fellow members of the geocaching community by visiting our <u>page</u> and clicking 'Like'. Stay tuned for more Facebook fun as our webmaster develops a new Facebook Group page where GeocacheAlaska! members can plan caching adventures, post photos, and pass messages within the membership ranks. This Facebook Group is designed to be yet another member benefit for Sourdoughs and Cheechakos alike.

#### GEOCACHEALASKA! MEMBERSHIP

There are two membership levels at GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

Sourdough Membership (formerly known as Premium Membership) affords you discounts in the GeocacheAlaska! online and traveling stores and events that have an entrance fee (Geofest, etc.), voting rights in Board of Directors elections and a warm fuzzy feeling for helping underwrite the organization's operating expenses that include web hosting, printing, banners, post office box fees, event prizes and lots of other things that are required to make things happen. Because GeocacheAlaska! is an incorporated 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, your membership dues are tax deductible.

If you cannot join as a Sourdough at this time, you may support GeocacheAlaska! by joining as a Cheechako (formerly known as Associate) Member. This will allow you to receive the monthly newsletter and e-mail announcements. More members at any level gives GeocacheAlaska!'s more clout and credibility during land manager conversations, so sign up today!

There are four ways you can join GeocacheAlaska! at the Sourdough level for \$20/year.

- 1. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! <u>webpage</u> and click on the "Subscribe" button to set up an automatic subscription which will renew annually. Please enter your caching name in the provided box.
- 2. Navigate to the GeocacheAlaska! <u>webpage</u> and click on "Add to Cart" to purchase an annual membership that will run through December 31, 2012.
- 3. Navigate to the Geocache Alaska! webpage to download a membership form you can print and mail with your payment.
- 4. Attend one of the upcoming GeocacheAlaska! events and speak to any Board Member.

#### Find us online at:

- 1. GeocacheAlaska! Website: http://www.geocachealaska.org
- 2. GeocacheAlaska! Forums: <a href="http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi">http://geocachealaska.proboards.com/index.cgi</a>
- 3. GeocacheAlaska! on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/GeocacheAlaska-Inc/180089884756">https://www.facebook.com/pages/GeocacheAlaska-Inc/180089884756</a>
  E-mail to <a href="mailto:contact@geocachealaska.org">contact@geocachealaska.org</a>

#### STATE PARKS PERMITS

Remember, if you want to hide a cache in a State Park, you may need a permit number for your cache page and the geocache. The 2012 permit number for the Chugach State Park is **12-044** and it must be on the cache container and the cache page. The 2012 permit number for the Mat-Su State Parks is **S12-010** and it must be on the cache container. Downloadble copies of the permits can be obtained from the GeocacheAlaska! Land Manager webpage or the GeocacheAlaska! Land Use Forums.

#### ONLINE ARCHIVES

Previous editions of "Around the State" are now on our website. If you have missed previous newsletters, check out the series (including previous Trail Reports) here.

The editors of "Around the State" would like to hear from you. Submit articles or suggestions to <a href="mailto:scobey@geocachealaska.org">scobey@geocachealaska.org</a>
Subject: Around the State.