

GCPC EPISODE 561 - Mystery May: Gadget Caches!

SB: Welcome everyone! It's Wednesday, its 8:30 which means that it is once again, time for the Geocaching podcast. I'm Scott Berks, we have shortyknits manning the phones and please welcome to my virtual left, my co-host, Taz427!

CC: Howdy all, Do you love gadget caches as much as I love gadget caches.

SB: Tonight's Episode **561**, recorded live on **May 1, 2019** is **Gadget Caches**. The phone lines are open so give us a call at 808-468-7924, that's 808 GOT SWAG

SB: Let's talk Patreon. It costs a lot of money to make this podcast work and we really could use your help. Thanks to all of our current subscribers and our new subscribers:

- Towheadedmule out of Tulsa, OK (GS)

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SB: And it's also sponsored by **Logwerk!**

Logwerk are the creators of the FANTastic logbook, made with genuine Rite in the Rain paper. The logbooks designed for the micro containers of the present and future, geared towards the hider who rather go caching than do cache maintenance. Find them at Logwerk.com

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You can find links to all our sponsors in our show notes.

SHOW NOTES:

NEWS:

- none

EMAIL:

- What golf ball retrievers are you guys using, particularly Taz with his telescopic one?
- https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000WNBA4K/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_as_in_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1 iGotcha 14" Extendable Golf Ball Retriever - Make sure you get one with the 'flip out head'
- Towheadedmule

Bouncebounce (Chad Champion from the Pacific Northwest) was just interviewed on the Geocaching Blog

DJWHouse (Dave Wagner from the Midwest) caches were just featured in the Geocaching Vloggers video last week

Gadget Cache Questions:

- Tell us about yourself? How did you get started caching?
 - BB

- I started caching back in 2014 on a raid trip down the Oregon coast. My wife found this game and thought it would be a good way to break up the drive time.
- DJW
 - I'm a Wisconsin cheese-head who wandered over the border. A black sheep of the family (I don't hunt, or fish...), but growing up in beautiful Wisconsin taught me to love the outdoors. Camping and travel was always a passion. Now I'm retired, married for 42 years, and have three great kids that are my go-to team for testing geocaches.
 - In the winter of 2011, my wife (Diane) and I were going to get bikes the next summer, so at Christmas, I got a gps to hook on the bike to measure our travels... (quick story).
 -
- What got you started creating Gadget caches?
 - BB
 - I found a cache that was creative and blended into the building. We spent an hour trying to find it before a Neighbor gave us a hint. After seeing that cache I started to think about how I can make something creative.
 - DJW
 - Who to blame? (I can thank them now...). Major_Boothroyd Poker70
 - April 2013 - Discovery: My wife and I jumped into geocaching with both feet (1100 in our first 10 months). Our focus was getting 'the oldest' caches in each state. (5 in the first few months, 20 so far). In 2013 we discovered MOGA, our first big event! Diane and I are grabbing lunch during MOGA, and there's this cache, right behind the pizza restaurant... Our first gadget cache! Q's 2013 MOGA Cache - GC44GMY.
Major_Boothroyd
 - November 2013 - Motivation: Angry Birds Series - Poker70 (Garry). Great series of gadget caches, I'm loving them. One of them (archived) had a wireless doorbell (which I had also previously purchased from a bargain bin). That got me going to immediately put out the first of the Wired series of caches, 'Wired #01 - Listen' (already numbering them...). The feedback (logs / favorites) was amazing.
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- What do you do for living and does it help with creating gadget caches?
 - BB
 - I am a Building Engineer. I spend my days taking things apart and putting them back together. I have always enjoyed figuring out how things work and fixing them. I have always been good at seeing something or just thinking something and being able to create it. My friends tell me if they

were stuck on a deserted island I would be their first Choice to have with them.

- DJW

- I am a retired Electrical Engineer. It's funny that in the 1980s, I spent years designing and coding software for automotive products using a new integrated circuit device, called a microcontroller. This is the same essential component that I now use to make all my 'smart' geocaches today. Back then I was paid to design hardware and write software to read switches, display data, measure inputs and control motors and lights. Now I do it for fun, and I call it a 'Wired' geocache.

- What's your favorite cache you've done?

- BB

- It Takes Three GC this cache was a lot of fun and a lot of work to do. Spent almost 8 hours just running wires underground. The cache has revived over 200 favorite points in about 6 months. The great part is that it is such a basic design and does not use any micro controller to work. The battery will last several years before I need to change it.
- I will have to say the thing I really enjoy making is my discoverable puzzle boxes. These boxes really change the world/game of trackables. I can do slot of things that's hard to do with a cache.

- DJW

- The Doctor is In!' by Doctor Dolittle (TARDIS - [GC6YDR6](#)), for the fun of *collaboration*, and the challenges the CO Ron Beatty gave to me to accomplish his vision.
- '1706 - Face Darth Vader!!!' [GC76HFH](#) in West Bend. I tried so many new things on this one, and I think it elevated this cache up a level. Shout out to [hyliston](#) (Eric) for the inspiration and his help with his 'Don't Shock the This is a favorite because the only electrical thing I did, was add some bigger batteries. This cache is all about a one of a kind puzzle, invented using a gag gift item, to turn is into a really fun cache.
- Wired #08 - Beverly Sounding Board. [GC668PX](#) This is a favorite because the only electrical thing I did, was add some bigger batteries. This cache is all about a one of a kind puzzle, invented using a gag gift item, to turn is into a really fun cache.

- What's your favorite gadget cache (not yours)?

- BB

- Johnnys throne room GC created by Goblindust. Between all the electronics, sound, video it is just amazing.

- DJW

- Maybe because I do electronic caches, my favorite gadget caches are mechanical in nature. Diane and I found a very creative cacher in North

Dakota, named **trycacheus**. His 'Strong Man at the Fair' GC2CTZK had us in stitches. (short story).

- What inspires you when it comes to creating gadget caches?

- **BB**

- The first thing I think about is creating a great and fun experience for cachers. Mostly what kind of cache would I want to find.
 - The biggest reason for wanting to hide creative fun caches is reading cachers logs. When I can hear/read about the great experience I created for cachers is the best thing. I believe if you ask any creative cache builder this question they will say the same thing about the logs. The most frustrating logs are "TFTC" we spend countless hours and resources making these caches. The finder should be able to say something other than that. The biggest thing to hear in a log is "we traveled here to spend all weekend finding just Bouncebounce caches" I have even had caches want me to go with them to find my caches.
 - I have also learned favorite points are addictive.

- **DJW**

- I want to create, 'A one of a kind caching experience'. I LOVE to make a cache no one has ever made before, OR to take an existing idea, and take it to a new level. I love to learn and problem solve, so I've had 80% of my fun before the cache is even released.

- What's the average time from thought process to go live on a gadget cache? Walk us through the process if you can.

- **BB**

- Depending on what's involved with the cache 1 - 6 months. It also takes time meeting with land owners and explains to them about caching and why they should allow me to put a cache on their property.
 - My best ideas come to me in the morning driving to work. Recently I have become friends with a lot of great gadget cache creators and we will get together and just brainstorm ideas. We have come up with some really good ideas for caches.
 - I am usually working on 4-5 caches at one time. Most of the time when creating these caches not everything they way I pictured it so it sits on the work station until it is perfect.

- **DJW**

- About 2 - 5 months is the process, shortest was 1 month. A good year is 5 caches.
 - Ideas: It takes 3 1/2 hours to drive downstate to the grandkids in Mattoon. It's a long drive, so many of my caches are brainstormed and envisioned while driving on I-57. When you are driving, nothing can be captured, so

you keep churning and rethinking the idea, over and over. Most times it ends up with something very different from where you may have started.

- Process: Typically cache creation season starts in October, with 3 to 5 cache ideas, worked over the winter months. It goes from a description of game play, block diagram of the electronics structures, proof of concepts (especially on a new technology), prototyping, coding, debugging, electronic build, packaging concepts, packaging drawings, construction, assembly and final testing. During the entire process, my wife and kids are constantly peppered with ideas and what if's to hopefully make good choices and keep the cache on track.
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- What's the maintenance situation like on your gadget caches? How many do you have?

- BB

- I currently have 19 caches out with 2 in the review process.
- I don't have much maintenance on my caches. The biggest thing is changing batteries out. My caches are all I metal weather tight containers. I make all my interiors out of Acrylic. This makes them more resistant to weather than just a wood bird house.

- DJW

- currently I have 15 active gadget caches, and expect that to be at 20 later this year.
- By far, I spend much more time on cache maintenance on my 'normal' caches Most every year, about 20% of those will get some kind of hands on help.
- I currently have 59 total active caches, 15 of those are electronic gadget caches. The 'Wired' style caches may have some start up issues, but after that, the maintenance is pretty low, baring the occasional insect invasion, swollen door and binding lock.
- Most of my 'Wired' caches have internal batteries now. I expect 2 to 4 years on them before the batteries need replacing.
-

- Are your caches urban? In the woods?

- BB

- All my caches are urban caches. Fortunately I have work for a property management company. This gives me a lot of freedom to put caches on the property. As you can see from a lot of my photos my caches are install on building or concreted into the ground.

- DJW

- thanks to LUKE (famof5w) for sharing one of his urban hide approaches!

- Historically they have all been woodsy hides, but in April I put out my first 'urban' style Wired geocache. I'll have 3 or 4 more urban hides out this year. That's a new area for me to explore.
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- Anything else you'd like to share?
 - **BB**
 - Keep putting great logs on caches and I will keep make new caches.
 - Cachers can also follow me on Instagram #bouncebounce8 or email me if they have any questions Bouncebounce8@outlook.com
 - **DJW**
 - THANKS to all for the many wonderful log entries, comments and support!
 - My wife is not a big fan of solving my Wired gadget caches. She is, however, a big fan of gadget caches! ONE DAY, I hope to build a cache my wife will LOVE. As I have improved my skills over the years, I now have one she doesn't hate, and two new ones in process that she even likes!! LOL.
 -

SB:

- none

CC:

- none

SK:

- none

NEXT WEEK'S SHOW:

- **Mystery May:** Puzzle Solving Help

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That's all we got this week so we'll see you next week talking geocaching and taking your phone calls. In the meantime, be good, be safe, and hug your loved ones. Talk to ya next week.