

Show 48.0 - Building a Challenge Trail

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Show Guest: bloodycool

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Youtube: <https://youtube.com/live/8gxJW3IYAEk>

Show playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIyQyaP7GhZu-8r_0JcRWz4D1IxtmJ7IY

Part of the [Geocache Talk Network](#)



SHOW NOTES

- **Intro tidbits**

- We are your hosts Emily and Tim
- So how's your month been?
 - Emily
 - Goals met!
 - 18 year 2000 and 2001 caches including 3 state's oldest
 - 2 year 2000 caches to Triple Jasmer, then 3 year 2000 caches to Quad
 - 4 webcams
 - Painted the World's Largest Ball of Paint for a milestone cache
 - Event with Tim and finding cache by Tim, Kneel More, and teamtailwagger along my journey
 - Tim
 - Woodstock XX
 - Emily's visit to Michigan
 - MWGB- Hot Dogs, Campsite:K10-13-4, Need portable grill.

- **News items: Challenge Academy Trails**

- First full card blackout - KBLAST
- Update on Challenge Academy Trails - Find counts are per months, not rolling for the whole promotion
- Checker link: <https://project-gc.com/Challenges//88392>

- **Challenge Statistics update % Project-GC:**

- **Monthly Challenge Cache location update**

- 41384 active challenge caches worldwide (by attribute [search](#)) up from 40978 +406 (as of 6/3)
 - USA has 16,650 active challenge caches, followed by Germany, Canada, Norway, France
 - No change in the Challenge Leader stats Worldwide or in the USA .

- **TOPIC: Building Challenge Trails**

([link to official challenge cache guidelines](#))

What makes a good challenge trail?

“The goal of a challenge power trail should be that the cacher can find 100% of the caches and then log Found It logs for all that they qualify for. “ ~Doug Macrae (RetiredGuy)

What sort of experience do you want cachers to have?

- Getting 30 park and grab challenge caches quickly and easily, or climbing trees
- Trudging through trash along the side of a busy highway or walking down a nice trail in the woods

Who is your audience?

- Starting geocachers
- Experienced cachers
- A range (different levels of the same challenge)
- There are very few 1/1 challenge caches out there
 - Nels has found 1006 challenge caches, only 1 is a 1/1, there are only 41 total in the US as of last week (0.25% of US challenge caches)

Where are they coming from?

- Local
 - less cohesive trail
 - Multiple vehicles more likely
 - Longer trail that may take multiple days
- Travelers
 - Easier for them if there is one cohesive trail, gaps in trail eat up time
 - Won't have local knowledge
 - Parking coords even more helpful
 - Less likely to spend multiple days on the same trail

Special tools required?

- It is probably good to avoid special tools unless you make it very clear so they can plan when traveling
- Some special tools may be difficult to travel with, i.e. ladder

Special clothing/attire required?

- Clothing is generally determined by the location/season and surroundings, but it is helpful to note of specifics for the cache location ie:
 - Roadside floods after rain, you way want muck boots
 - Lots of stinging nettle, wear long pants/sleeves

Other things to consider to help cachers prepare:

- Are the D/T ratings correct for the hide or are they a reflection of the challenge?
 - Guidelines recommend that D be the difficulty of the challenge, Terrain based on the hide, but this is not adhered to.
- Do the coordinates need to be corrected?
 - Coords can be not as posted, but at final coords listed on page
 - Correcting all the coords is annoying busywork
- Are the cache attributes accurate?
 - Some attributes are added to help cachers meet other challenges
- Are parking coordinates provided?
- Are the cache hides a similar container?
 - Knowing what to look for can make a trail easier/faster
- Can it be accessed by foot/bike/car?
- Are there multiple points of access?
- Weather considerations (swampy area, no tree cover, etc)
- What is the terrain (steep hills, tree climbs)
- Is it a safe area for cachers?
 - Consider traffic, surroundings, lighting at night, questionable activity

How easy will it be to maintain?

- Use durable containers
- No one wants to travel and then DNF a challenge cache. Make sure the trail can be maintained
 - Some trails allow cachers to help maintain them for example, RetiredGuy created a website for the Retired Monkey Power Trail with lots of information. On that site, cachers that are going to run the entire trail can volunteer to help with the maintenance and will be sent a maintenance kit in advance.

- **Community Q's**

- Do you have any questions you'd like answered, talk about, explore? Big or small, email them to challengetalkpodcast@gmail.com

GAMETIME

- **Wheel Of Challenges!**

- It's time for the Wheel of Challenges!
- One live viewer each month will be selected to face off against the wheel to have a chance to win the grand prize (1 year **membership on Project-GC**)
- **Limit of three wins**
- To enter, send an email with a subject containing "SPIN ME" followed by your geocaching username in brackets and the answer to the following question. The first verified user *gets the wheel*. Your profile will be checked live on Project-GC, and if you qualify, you win!
- Here is your question: **Which well-known challenge trail owner did bloodycool gives us trail advice from?**
- The answer to the question was: "Retired Guy"
- The first to answer by email correctly was **JediTrashPanda**. Unfortunately, they didn't qualify for [GCAAF9X](#) (4.0D) **Challenge #44 - 500 Multi (Find 500 Multi-caches)**

- **Monthly Challengers**

- Every month we give a congratulatory shoutout to listeners who email us proof of qualifying and **logging** a challenge cache since the last show. Anyone who sends an email to challengetalkpodcast@gmail.com with the GC code having a Found it log (including a photo if you'd like to share) for that month will be entered for the prize giveaway for a **Challenge Talk Pathtag**.
- Here are a few of the interesting challenges we heard about from our listeners:
 - **JediTrashPanda:** [GC9BQH6](#) **A challenge for non-millennials** - 5 wireless beacon attributes.
 - **BloodyCool:** [GC55AHK](#) **Charter Member...Nifty Fifty** - One cache per charter member up to 50.
 - **Thndrstrck:** [GC5530T](#) **K10: Hanging with Friends** - Attend 20 events in a 31 day period
 - **bedstefader skjule:** [GCAA879](#) **Four Corners Challenge by JustFindingOurWay** - find four caches in each of the Four Corners states - Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.
 - **KBLAST:** [GC8HZWT](#) **Ohio County Century Challenge - Delaware** - Find 100 caches of any cache type in Delaware County, Ohio
 - **rhodieguy:** [GCAHP8B](#) **Leap Day Hidden Challenge** - log at least 1 cache of 3 types which were hidden on February 29 of any year.
 - **Thanks also to MaineGuy20, and The Twonky for additional submissions.**
 - Lots of opportunities to win, but you can only win if you submit!
- Remember, to enter for next month, send in your email before next month's show.
- This month's winner is: **KBLAST**

REMINDERS

- Next show is the SECOND TUESDAY OF July, the 9TH!
- Show notes will be posted shortly after the show airs in the video description and linked in the podcast description.
- Remember to say hello, in that special way, when you see Emliy or I at an event.
- This month's quote: From General George Patton: Accept Challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory!
- THANKS FOR WATCHING AND LISTENING!
- Remember, it's not about the numbers, it's about the challenge!
- *"Challenge accepted!"*

LINKS AND RESOURCES

Helpful browser plugins:

- Project-GC browser helper: <https://project-gc.com/Home/UserScript>
(Requires TamperMonkey or GreaseMonkey)
- GME Geocaching Map Enhancements: https://openuserjs.org/scripts/JRI/Geocaching_Map_Enhancements
- GCih (Little Helper) extension: <https://github.com/2Abendsegler/GCIh>

[Challenge cache guidelines - Section 2.12](#)

Challenge Cache Moratorium?!!

A 1 year halt on all challenge cache publishing gave GCHQ time to rework the rules and guidelines for challenge caches. Post-moratorium challenge caches abide by different restrictions than pre-moratorium challenge caches, which have been 'grandfathered' as is.

Moratorium started: April, 2015

Moratorium ended: May 25, 2016

Past shows with introductory topics:

- [2.0 - Statistics and you!](#)
- [3.0 - Challenging etiquette](#)
- [4.0 - Strategies for tracking progress](#)
- [8.0 - Challenge badges and souvenirs](#)
- [9.0 - Hiding Emily's first challenge cache](#)
- [14.0 - Challenge caching on the road](#)
- [15.0 - Ask a reviewer: CacheShadow](#)
- [19.0 - Lackey interview: Rock Chalk](#)
- [21.0 - Fully Themed Challenge Caches](#)
- [25.0 - Tools of Project-GC](#)
- [37.0 - Project-GC Questions](#)

Challenge Trails Master Document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DOxpa4vnLbnJ0f7p0qsfgE07HocdpwJFiThEdGZF0Z4/edit?usp=sharing>