

GCPC EPISODE 547 - Winter Caching Tips!

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 my co-host, Taz427!

CC: Howdy All, Grab your coats, it's about to get chilly.

SB: Tonight's Episode **547**, recorded live on **January 23, 2019** is **Winter Caching Tips!** 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:

- Bingothebountyhunter from Hampshire, UK

Please give anything you can. [PATREON.com/thegeocachingpodcast](https://www.patreon.com/thegeocachingpodcast)

CC: Tonight's show is brought to you by **Cachly!**

"Cachly is an advanced Geocaching app for iOS. It features powerful online and offline features including filtered searches, offline maps and offline saving of caches. Cachly has hundreds of advanced features that will make your Geocaching experience just that much better!" Get more info at cachly.com

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 goes caching than doing cache maintenance. Find them at logwerk.com

CC: It's also brought to you by **FTF Geocacher Magazine!**

FTF Geocacher is the magazine for geocachers written BY geocachers. With 6 issues a year, FTF offers practical advice, hints & tips, cacher bios & milestones, geocaching events, trail tales, and all things geo-related. Find them at ftfgeocacher.com

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

SHOW NOTES:

NEWS:

- **Jan 20th- 26th - GEOCACHING HQ APPRECIATION WEEK**
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- Joshua would love for us to send physical notes, emails, videos to Seattle this week. Perhaps even include in the thank you an example of how geocaching has made your life better.
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- Groundspeak, Inc
- 837 N 34th Street
- Suite 300
- Seattle, WA 98103
-
- <https://www.geocaching.com/help/index.php?pg=request>
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- On social media encourage people to use the hashtag **#IheartGCHQ**

EMAIL:

- The Geocaching community has recently suffered a loss. On Tuesday, 01/15/2019, John from from the caching team “Zoldfarts (the rockhounds)” passed away. He and his wife cached together and were well known in the Teracaching communities, as well as the benchmarking communities. Thankfully we did not lose him to an accident while enjoying any of his beloved hobbies. He really enjoyed benchmarking and one time he recovered a benchmark that had not been found in several decades. He will be missed, and I am proud to have known him.
- Geekboy.from.Illinois
- -----

- Started listening to your podcast again. How many DNFs post would you allow before you do maintenance?
- Enigma360
- -----
- Thanks for bringing the show back. I tune in live when I can or listen at a later time.
- I am wondering if you know of the date for the 2019 APE event. I am very interested in attending the event and want to try to make travel plans but am unable to find any info about the event. Perhaps you or one of you listeners know and can share a GC#.
- Thanks
- Firefighter Skippy, Patreon member
- A: For the last 3 years it's been the 3rd week of august, I don't see why they would change it. I haven't seen any official word yet on that date (ie a GC page).

What is so special about Winter Geocaching?

SB:

- Having the seasons change is awesome. It's a whole different game in the winter
- The woods look spectacular after a snowfall
- More clothing means more pockets!

CC:

- What's so special about it? Well in a lot of places all the undergrowth has died off, making cache access easy, until it snows if you live in a snowy area. I haven't cache a lot in snow, but I have cached in snow a small handful of times, but some relatively easy stuff.
- You may even need a jacket.
- Snakes are dormant, YEAH!

SK:

- I love the peace and quiet of the woods after a fresh snowfall.
- Winter can make that tough 5/5 island cache an easy 1/1 walkup!

Winter Geocache Preparation - finding and hiding

SB:

- Consider the changes of the seasons and how they interact with geocache hides
- Snow, Ice and Flood issues

- Foliage disappears
- Know how high to hide your geocache
 - Heavy snow and ice can trap a geocache - Move them upwards as an option?
- Disable the geocache as an option or use the Winter Attribute
- Freezing weather can freeze and break certain things within a geocache

CC:

- I'm sure plows can make the simple LPC a real challenge.
- It may also make getting a cache hidden high on a lamp with a magnet, that much easier.
- Or access to an Island cache a walk in the park, or across the ice.

SK:

- Pico tubes or containers made of similar plastic are not a good idea in areas that get very cold - they tend to crack and break.
- Caches should be rated based on when it is hidden, so keep that in mind when finding a cache in the winter.
- I always have extra logs with me in the winter to replace ones that have frozen.
- Dress in layers!
- Walking in snow is exhausting, even with snowshoes.
- Definitely bring extra batteries, since the cold can make your phone battery die much quicker.
- Follow the footprints!

Winterizing Maintenance

SB:

- Things get wet, moist and frozen
- Pens can freeze
- Containers can become brittle
- Lids can stick (metal)

CC:

- I never really have winterized a cache. The lowest temp my caches have ever seen was about 28F (or -2C.) Never had an issue with pens at those temps but I can see how that can be a problem.
- I'd say for around here, making sure it's well water tight would be a winterizing need.

SK:

- none

What changes do you make to your backpack, car, etc?

SB:

- Add a rubber mallet to my trunk
- Add extra gloves to my bag and car

CC:

- Snow chains, if I'm heading up in the mountains, even if the roads are currently clear.
- For me this is when I check my winter gear (blanket, ice scraper, gloves, etc) to make sure things are in good condition before heading up into mountain areas. Things do deteriorate over time. Especially when stuck in the trunk, boot, hatch, ... of a car during long hot summers.

SK:

- Here in the midwest, winters can get very very cold. That doesn't necessarily stop be from caching - I just cache differently.
- I always carry a blanket in the car, even in the summer. In winter, I add some waters and snacks, just in case.
- Check out - <http://www.shortyknits.com/7-must-haves-for-winter-geocaching/>
 - Rubber mallet
 - Collapsible shovel
 - Good winter boots
 - Snowshoes
 - Smartphone gloves
 - Warm coat or vest
 - Traction cleats

NEXT WEEK'S SHOW:

- All Things Trackable
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CLOSING:

Please join us again next week as we take your calls live every Wednesday night at 9:30 Eastern, 8:30 Central right here at www.geocachingpodcast.com/live. The archived video versions of our podcasts are available on our website or on our YouTube channel and the audio versions are available on most of your favorite Podcatchers. If you like

the show please head on over to apple iTunes and rate, review and subscribe. We'd really appreciate it and really helps the show when you do.

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that's p-a-t-r-e-o-n-.com/thegeocachingpodcast

It really does help the show and we really do need it. Thanks so much.

Thanks once again to our sponsors: Cachly, Logwerk & FTF Geocacher Magazine!

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.