

GCPC EPISODE 545 - Hosting Your 1st Event

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! We want to hear from you so get those phones ready.

SB: Tonight's Episode **545**, recorded live on **January 9, 2019** is **Hosting Your 1st Event!** 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:~~

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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:

- Share big smiles and win fun prizes with Love Big! (USA only)
 - Adventure! Treasure! Memories! **Love Big** and author Kat Kronenberg are giving away 550 CATCH-M trackables and we want you to be a part of the adventure by sharing your best “Big Smiles” photos with the trackables on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter
 - From February to April 2019, three photos with the CATCH-M trackable that best capture “big belly geocaching smiles” will be selected each month to win an autographed 1st Edition of **Love Big**. Those winners will also be entered to win the Grand Prize Author’s Visit and three additional autographed 1st Editions of **Love Big**.
- CITO souvenirs expanded to “seasons” rather than week/weekend
 - <https://www.geocaching.com/blog/2019/01/cache-in-trash-out-announcement-for-2019/>
- Our merch store is finally open! Patreon members pay the cost of the shirt.
<https://geocachingpodcast.threadless.com/>

EMAIL:

- Hi folks!
 - I've noticed within the past year, that participation in event attendance has dropped off to nothing in our region. The last 3 CITO events, my wife and I were the only attendees. No one logged onto the event page whatsoever for a while to attend or even to drop a note. Have you noticed a drop in your areas as well? I know there was a vibrant group in the Reno NV. area, but even now I don't see any activity on their FB page. On the

FB page in my area, I have been about the only person posting anything for about the last year or so. I had also been trying to host more monthly meet and greets, and those to dwindled down to nothing. I couldn't even stir up any new interest in the game.

- Is it this dry in your areas as well?
- Bruce Cosens akaTeam Dastardly

Event:

- Make sure the place can hold the number of people you think might show up. Once went to an event with 30+ people there with seating for like 10. And it was winter!
- Make sure the place knows you are coming! Call them and give them a heads up about the event. Then call them like a day before and give them a rough estimate on the number of people attending. Let them prepare for it (extra help, save tables, etc). Double the # of will attends for a more accurate expectation.
- It's not a bad idea to have name tags and a pen next to the event log book (if you have one). There might be twenty people at an event, and you only know half of them. You would probably be more likely to talk to someone you don't know if you see their name tag and recognize their name.
- Announcements feature will email anyone who logged a will attend or attended after the fact.
- Check a religious calendar. Don't assume all Cachers use the same calendar. Ex - annual event was accidentally scheduled on Yom Kippur
- Remember that geocaching is a family friendly activity, and events should be held at appropriate locations. If you really want to hold an event at a bar that does not allow anyone under 21, it's ok but please be sure to mention this in the event listing on geocaching.com.
- It is not expected or required to have games and/or giveaways at an event, but nobody would be mad if you did!
- Consider the geocaches in the area surrounding the event. You may get a better turnout if there is a high density of newer geocaches in the area. It's not unusual for me to plan a Saturday caching outing based on where there is an event that night. Many people will get to the area early or stay later to find the caches around the venue.
- <http://www.shortyknits.com/how-to-host-geocaching-event/>

CITO:

- Since a CITO event will result in an improvement to a public space, pick an area that's important to you and/or that needs special attention. Make sure you have permission to host the CITO from the local land manager.
- If picking up trash, have grabbers and safety vests for the participants if you can. Don't assume people are bringing them. Also be sure to bring plenty of trash bags.
- CITO activities have ranged from trash pickups, to tree plantings, to invasive species removals, to trail maintenance. Need inspiration and direction? Talk to the land manager to find out where volunteers are most needed. See if there are any local environmental organizations already doing volunteer work, with whom you can partner. Call your city's Parks and Recreation department to find out if any city volunteer initiatives are planned.
- If cleaning up a road, talk to the city or village about picking up the trash bags once completed.
- On the day of the event:
 - Show up early.
 - Watch the cache page and your e-mail for last minute questions.
 - See to it that every person knows what the activity is, and how to do it.
 - Agree on a time and location to meet up and debrief at the close of the event.

MEGA/GIGA:

- none

WHAT NOT TO DO HOSTING AN EVENT:

- Don't use the event for any commercial purposes. It's ok to give the name of the venue where the event will be held, but you can't say that everyone needs to come to the event because they have the best ice cream in the universe.
- Don't try to host an event at an airport, cruise ship port, or train station. It will be denied by the reviewer.
- Don't set up an event as a meeting point with the main intent of finding geocaches.
- Don't skip out or leave early, even if no one shows up. This host is expected to be there the entire advertised time. People do show up within the last few minutes!

- Don't forget to archive the event listing a few weeks after the event. Give the attendees some time to log their attended logs.

NEXT WEEK'S SHOW:

- Pro Tips for the New Geocacher!
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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.