

GCPC EPISODE 551 - The Evolution of Geocaching P2

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! Time for some more evolution.

SB: Tonight's Episode **551**, recorded live on **February 20, 2019** is **The Evolution of Geocaching P2!** 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!

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

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

SHOW NOTES:

NEWS:

- none

EMAIL:

- none
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Okay guys - go back to the beginning of your geocaching careers and you will be describing what it was like when you first started geocaching. Then we are going to talk about how things have changed in both technologies, gameplay and priorities for each of us throughout the years.

Chris, feel free to update either the GC or the RC (your personal)

2008

GC:

- International Space Station Geocache hidden

SB:

- Started in **July 2008**
- Just wanted to get some exercise and relaxation
- This was pre Geocaching app, I would type the coords into apple maps and then have the 2 dots meet. I would also print out pages if in the woods so I didn't waste battery life.
- Soon after the app Geopher Lite came out. Used that until the real app came out.

RC:

- none

2009

GC:

- Geocaching app released

SB:

- Got my first gps for Fathers Day **2009** and used it whenever in the forest.
- Geocaching app came out and it really changed the game! Still only used it for urban caching at the time
- Jewocaching Day was born!

RC:

- none

2010

GC:

- Hits 1 million hides, over 5 million geocachers
- Golden Age begins?
- First virtual souvenirs awarded?
- Website translated into languages other than English for the first time
- Lost & Found events - last time a new icon was introduced

SB:

- The Chicago Geocacher Podcast goes on the air

CC:

- I got my first look at Geocaching in October 2010. With a Garmin Nuvi.

RC:

- none

2011

GC:

- Gives us the failed Challenges!
- ET highway gets archived

SB:

- Around **2011** I was really hitting my stride getting over 2k a year and doing the Chicago Geocacher Podcast. Made me want to cache.
- A little while later the iphones and cases were getting better and I pretty much went exclusively to the iPhone

CC:

- March 2011 - 133 day cacheless streak ended in Xi'an China - 1 cache in 100mi radius. Offline maps, no caching app, no data, but got it! Printed out a Sat image of the location, outside of the Terracotta Warriors Exhibit.

SK:

- In the spring of 2011, my mom had gone out to Portland to visit her sister. She came home with a GPS borrowed from her brother and told me all about geocaching. I thought it sounded like fun!
- I created my account May 1, 2011 and found a free app (c:geo) for my phone to give it a try. I did try and then tried again and again.
- I finally found my first cache on June 1, 2011. It was a bison tube on a light pole in a residential neighborhood. I remember sitting there on the curb holding the container in my hand and signing the log. I was so excited!
- I found a total of 19 caches in 2011 in 4 states - IL, WV, OH, & IN. Some of these finds are still so memorable to me. I loved exploring the back roads of WV with my son and my sister. One find in OH actually took me two blocks from my ex-husband's grandparents house - that was a surprise!
- My longest slump was 194 days, August 2011 to February 2012.

RC:

- none

2012

GC:

- GeoTours introduced

SB:

- none

CC:

- Was really getting into Geocaching, went to my first Mega, the Texas Challenge, Groundspeak HQ, The Block Party, The Going APE event, Original Stash Plaque, Dr Who. A 10 Icon run day. So by the end of the year, I wasn't only hooked but infatuated. At this point I'm pretty much 100% paperless.



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- Did some of the 'Challenges' even created some of them. Some weird, some cool, some just idiotic - yeah, I'm talking about things like taking a picture while touching Uranus at a planetarium - Sound familiar Snoogans? But without getting a smiley I quickly lost interest.
- Trying to run Wherigo's always crashing on both GPSr and Smartphone at that time. Back at this time, we'd get several of use together to do a Wherigo, all running the app, and hoping that someone managed to get to the end w/o it crashing. No longer an issue today.
- Smartphones were becoming more mainstream, and started geocaching primarily with the smartphone - Though kept using GPSr on the longer hikes.

SK:

- I found a total of 90 caches in 2012, including my first virtual (Cloud Gate AKA The Bean). At this point, geocaching was something that I did as a broke single mom with my son, who was 5 at the time. We would go off on adventures in the parks in search of treasure!
- 65 of the 90 were in December. Guess who I had met that month!!
- Scott's Christmas gift to me this year was a Premium membership so I could find aaaaaalllllllll the geocaches.
- With Scott, I found my first puzzle, multi, and earthcache.

RC:

- none

2013

GC:

- Hits 2 million hides
- Geocaching in space
- 1st GIFF was part of the Block Party
- Geocaching Intro app introduced, later renamed simply Geocaching app

SB:

- By **2013** I was with Jessie and we were caching a ton and taking vacations to cache. Again only using an iPhone
- I start on the GCPC

CC:

- At this point annual Mega's became a thing. Was doing the Texas Challenge annual, and went to Geowoodstock for the first time. This is what I really love, I'm always with a lot of friends, hitting a lot of caches, and seeking out those that are truly interesting, or Icon Runs, hit a 11 Icon Run this year.
- Smartphone GPSr are improving, many are having GPS and GLONASS sat reception, improving both accuracy and likelihood of reception.
- Got a Garmin Oregon 600 when the released. First Handheld GPSr with a decent touch screen and most importantly, you could read it like paper in full sunlight w/o no backlight.

SK:

- My biggest geocaching year - 3122 finds! Many, many firsts happened for me this year.
- January - got my first (co) FTF!
- In February, I went to my first event - Cabin Fever. Prior to this, I really didn't even realize that cachers actually knew each other.
- March - Found my first gadget cache - 10 for one? Which was an old pay phone that required you to put in a dime, turn a dial, and the cache container dropped out of the bottom.
- Scott took me to West Bend for the first time for a weekend in March, and my head was spinning! There were soooo many caches!
- In April, I found my 1000th - Beverly, GC28.
- May - Found my first Challenge cache, which made me want to cache even more to start qualifying for aaaaaaIIIIIIIIII of the challenges.
- May - Had my first 100+ day on the 400 trail in WI.
- May - placed my first hides
- June - Found the Original Stash Tribute Plaque with my son and my aunt who had originally told my mom about geocaching.

- August - completed my first geoart - Hummingbird series, included my first letterbox
- Also found my first wherigo in August
- Started streaking in August for the 31 days souvenirs and ended up lasting 201 days. I had to beat my longest slump so I could place a challenge.
- September - found my first webcam
- December - my first Jewocaching Day!

RC:

- none

2014

GC:

- First Giga event
- Lab caches introduced as beta - "I <3 Geocaching"
- "Geocache" becomes an official word in Scrabble

SB:

- I hit 10k cache finds
- External batteries for iPhones really went mainstream so you could keep your phone on as long as you liked.
- Chicago Geocaching Podcast goes off the air after 100 episodes

CC:

- Had been a long time listener of various geocaching podcasts, but joined The Geocaching Podcast as a Host.

SK:

- Attended my first Mega event - Geowoodstock in St. Charles, MO. Had a 13-icon day.
- Went to Alabama for the GPS Maze Exhibit.
- Hosted my first event, a birthday dinner for scottberks

RC:

- none

2015

GC:

- Challenge caches went on a temporary moratorium
- Message Center made it much easier to communicate with other geocachers
- Last Block Party Held.

SB:

- none

CC:

- Went to Brazil and got the last remaining APE cache or so I thought, and Icon.
- Moved from Texas to California

SK:

- I finally finished my Fizzy grid with a 5.0/4.0. Ironically that is the D/T that is currently keeping me from a double Fizzy.

RC:

- none

2016

GC:

- Challenge caches are back, with much clearer guidelines and requirements
- Long lost Project A.P.E. cache in Washington is found!
- Inside HQ podcast begins

SB:

- none

CC:

- none

SK:

- Switched from Android to iOS. I had considered it for a while, but never did for the sole reason of not wanting to give up my c:geo! But I finally did get an iPhone, bought Cachly, and it turned in to no big deal. Cachly is just as powerful as c:geo, if not more, although there are a couple of features I miss from c:geo that are not in Cachly. Friends' finds, add/remove favorite, etc.

RC:

- none

2017

GC:

- Brings back virtual caches to certain players
- Hits 3 million hides
- The remaining (fewer than 100) traveling caches were archived by HQ
- Geocaching Classic app officially retired
- Friend League introduced

SK:

- My smallest year since 2012 - only 878 finds. I went back to school and was working full time as well. No time for caching :(

SB:

- I hit 15k cache finds

CC:

- GC reinstated the APE cache in Seattle, so I had to go up for my third 'Going APE event' and double the number next to my APE Icon. Did a 13 Icon run day that day.

RC:

- none

2018**GC:**

- Introduces AR caches for a limited time

SB:

- none

CC:

- Finally got a Giga in the US, so had to go.

SK:

- I hit 10,000 finds!

RC:

- none

Today**SB:**

- Today caching is still pretty big in my life. We do it on vacations. We like to do it in our limited free time, but it's getting harder. Kids are getting older and we have more commitments

CC:

- none

SK:

- none

GC:

- Adventures Labs! What's up with that?
- New .com maps

RC:

- none

NEXT WEEK'S SHOW:

- Cacher Coffee OR P3 depending on time
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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.

