

GCPC EPISODE 860 - Mega Event Survival Guide

SB Welcome everyone! It's Wednesday, it's 8:30 which means that it is once again time for the Geocaching podcast. My name is Scott Berks, and please welcome first, our co-host from down-under: Seemyshell (gday) and as always, to my virtual left, my other co-host: Chaz427

CC: Howdy All! How do you survive a Mega Event?

SB: Tonight's Episode **860** recorded live on **April 16, 2025** is **Mega Event Survival Guide**. The phone lines are open so give us a call at 808-468-7924, that's 808 GOT SWAG and for international callers, you can call us for free via the web at callinstudio.com/show/gcpc

SB: Let's talk Patreon. It costs a lot of money to make this podcast work and we really could use your help. There are 2 ways you can help us out.

First, make a one time payment to us via paypal: paypal.me/thegeocachingpodcast

Or you can join Patron, and get extra audio, extra video, only for Patreon members. You get stickers and coins and pathtags and pins. You get the patron only show at the end of the year where we just give stuff away.

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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 would rather go caching than do cache maintenance. Find them at Logwerk.com

CM: 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

CC: And by the **MacSuds Body Company!**

MacSuds Body Company makes handmade bath and body products from all natural oils and butters. Items such as, Poison B Gone Soap, Itch spray and two scent choices of Bug Spray are all great for outdoor enthusiasts like Geocachers. At MacSuds Body we have you covered from Head to Toe. Find them at macsudsbody.com

SB: And by **Practical Geocaching!**

Practical Geocaching sells utility items for geocaching. Our items are made in the USA, and we always provide free shipping. Find them at practicalgeocaching.com

CM: And by **ArtEdCraftEd!**

ArtEdCraftEd creates unique geocaching themed tees and custom designs for you or your geocaching group. With Adult sizes ranging from small to 5XL, if you have an idea for a shirt design and cannot find it, then you've gone to the right place. Give them the opportunity to show you how they can enhance your caching experience with your own custom design! Visit them at ArtEdCraftEd.com

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SB: And by **Geooh GO!**

Go caching with Geooh GO, the geocaching app for Android that includes a wherigo player, trackable scanner, companion watch app, and county finds database. If you are an advanced geocacher, Geooh GO helps with powerful features like nearby cache notifications, optimized routes, offline mode, bulk TB logging and much more. Learn more by visiting them at geooh-go.com/

CM: And finally by **Cache Craft**

Cache Craft builds handmade devious and gadget geocaches, pathtag displays and many more geocaching products that you can pre-order for free pickup at their vendor booth at GeowoodstockXXI in West Virginia May 23 & 24. In honor of the 21st Geowoodstock event, receive 21% off your pre-order with code "GEOWOODSTOCKXXI" through May 1st. To reserve your pickup order visit cachecraftnj.com

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SHOW NOTES:

NEWS:

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EMAIL:

- Waymaker Jan
- Specifically to Craig & Chaz for Episode 859.
- Another great episode, but this one was better than normal. Maybe because the "Voice of the Patron Voiceless" SeemyShell led the way. Or maybe because Chaz has the vocal ambiance of Patrick Warburton. Or maybe because the Camp MiGo topic was just very interesting. Either way, this episode was just absolutely amazing, better than usual. I wonder what was different?
- Seriously, just messing with you a bit Scott, as I am going through your backlog of episodes. Maybe I am skipping some but you haven't missed a day hosting so this was a "surprise." Also, I am kinda punching up Craig currently for "sticking up for the patrons" during the March Madness episode he did with Josh on TOOT. As for past episodes, I really loved the trad letterboxing episode. Did you and Chaz ever get your hand carved stamp from your guest?

SB:

- 21 Mega events attended plus 1 Giga and 1 block party
- Geocaching Mega events are large, complex things. Often there are hundreds of attendees, and multiple activities and/or locations. This can be quite daunting to a new cacher. The following are some tips for getting the most out of your Mega event experience.

- **PRE-MEGA**

- What to Bring
 - Caching bag, swag, trackables and/or pathtags, money, pen, extra logs, sunscreen, flashlight, TOTTs, extra clothes & shoes, GPSr, external battery, water, snacks, and definitely bring your sense of adventure!
- Be Informed
 - Some Mega events are basically gigantic get togethers, others have themes or are based around contests. Depending on the theme, or even the location, your expectations and preparations will be different. Do your research ahead of time and come prepared.
 - Usually the schedule of events is posted to the event website well ahead of the event itself. Sometimes it also includes a map of the event site. I highly recommend attendees look over this information before arriving
- Pre-Order Merchandise
 - Things like supporters packs or specific geocoins related to the event must be pre-ordered and then picked up on the day. Even geocoins that don't require a pre-order can be sold out when you get to the event, so it's worth pre-purchasing if you really want something.
- GPX files
 - Once you have your targeted caches picked out, be sure to download a GPX file for your GPSr or save them to an offline list for your app. You never know what cell signal will be like in the area
 - Get offline maps for your phone
- Check the Weather
 - Dress appropriately! The Mega will go on rain or shine! Nothing is worse than being ill prepared for inclement weather. Be sure you have enough water if it's excessively hot.
 - Remember, there is no bad weather, only bad clothing choices

- Book Accommodations Early
 - Many Mega events are in areas that do not have a lot of accommodations close by. These locations tend to fill up quickly when a couple thousand cachers come to town. Book ahead of time. You can always cancel a reservation if you end up not going.
 - The proximity of the hotel will affect your plans for the day of the event, so keep that in mind as well.
 - If you want to camp, check out the website of the mega event (usually, each mega has their own website outside of geocaching.com, where you can buy merchandise and book camping, etc). If you're camping, it's a good idea to research in advance the closest shops to buy food and supplies.
- **MEGA**
- Sign the Logbook
 - Not all events have logbooks, but all megas I have been to do and usually, they are pretty cool. It's a nice memento of the day to get your name on the 'logbook'.
- Be An Active Participant
 - Don't expect hand-holding, or that someone will actively show you exactly what to do or where to go.
 - Take it upon yourself to get informed of the various things going on during the event and plan your time accordingly. If you are not sure what is going on, ask someone. Events typically have an information booth manned with volunteers with all the information you may need.
 - Look for the lackeys! Talk to them! Ask them for a lackey tag.
- Be Flexible
 - Mega events are run by volunteers.
 - If something does go wrong, instead of complaining about it and letting it ruin your day, just roll with the punches. It may also be a good time to pitch in and help out a fellow cacher in need.
- Check out the Trackable Table
 - No, it's not a table with a 6 digit code somewhere on it. It's a table with an abundance of travel bugs and geocoins to be picked up or discovered. If you have never been to a mega event before, chances are you've never seen a ridiculously sized trackable, so it will be a treat for the eyes! Take a

moment to reflect on the poor committee members who will no doubt be stuck with the huge trackables at the end of the event!

- If you're trying to maximize the number of trackables you discover, take a wander around the car park at the mega location – at least every second car is likely to have a travel bug in the window. Also keep an eye out for trackable people as you walk around and if you have a trackable shirt on yourself, be prepared for people to walk up to you, stare at your chest/back, perhaps take a photo, then walk away without saying a word. Totally normal.

- Food and Parking

- Understand how parking/food will work ahead of time so you are prepared. Some Megas are near urban centers and food and parking is plentiful and convenient, so lunch is just a quick trip to a local restaurant. Others are in rural areas, far away from the closest restaurants
- Sometimes these events require meal tickets purchased in advance to get food on-site. You are always welcome to bring your own food and drinks, of course.
- I would always advise bringing snacks, and extra water.

- Look For Side Events

- Often the weekend of the Mega is full of other events, some related to the main event, and some are just hosted by random other cachers. Look for these events to maximize your social time while at the event.
- Groundspeak is trying to do away with side events

- Adventure Lab Caches

- My advice would be to do the lab caches. They're usually pretty creative and an easy way to get some numbers while there if that's what you're interested in.

- Bring Some Cash – But Set Yourself a Budget

- The opportunity to walk into a store and buy geocaching goodies only exists in very few locations worldwide, but when you hit a mega event, you'll have stall after stall of caching wares right in front of your eyes.
- Set yourself a budget so you don't go too crazy and spend next month's paycheck on sneaky hides and travel bugs/coins.

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CC:

- 17 Megas, 2 Giga's, 2 HQ Block Parties, 1 Geocaching HQ Celebration

CM:

- 15x Mega
- 1x Giga
- 3 x Block Party

Discussed During The Show:

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NEXT WEEK'S SHOW:

- Geocaching Mystery Novels w/ Dan DeKoning (NO CHAD)