

Finding Your Treasure via GPS

-an engineers fantasy

By Lad Curtis



Lad Curtis finding his treasure near Yellowstone Lake

On my way to the airport for a business trip Public Radio had a story on a new recreational sport called "geocaching". The idea is that someone hides a container with various trinkets and a log book inside and records the location using a GPS. Then the owner of the cache posts the location of the treasure chest on the worldwide web with a description of the terrain and a description of how to get to a nearby trailhead. Other people get on the web and select a cache to go find.

The adventure is not only getting to the cache site but in finding the treasure. The rule is to find the cache, sign the log book, and if you want you can take an item from the cache as long as you leave an item. Then when you get home you write something about your adventure and send it to the owner of the cache.

This activity has really taken off with the cheap prices of GPS receivers. At the website below it lists something 14,000 active

caches in 109 countries! You will be shocked by how many are in Colorado alone. I was reading the description of a cache about 5 miles from my house that was placed by a history buff. He described

**Wouldn't it be cool to
set a series of caches
located specifically
for kayakers?**

that the location of the cache was at the site on the banks of Chatfield reservoir that had once been a watering station for steam locomotives. Apparently, caches are located in places that have some interesting or redeeming value to the owner of the cache.

The sites on the Green River alone boggle the mind except for the fact that it is illegal to place caches in National Parks. The caches don't have to be made public at all. We could have a series of caches just for RMSKC. The owner of a cache is supposed to check in on it occasionally to make sure it is intact and no negative impact is occurring to the surrounding area. This sounds like a great article for the newsletter too. Haven't tried this geocaching yet but the kids were psyched and wanted to know immediately when we could go.

Well, this was such a cool idea it seemed appropriate to share.

INFO

www.geocaching.com

contact Lad Curtis if you are interested in caching for sea kayakers:
curtislc@earthlink.net