



THE GRAND STRAND GEOCACHERS POST

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September 7, 2009



09/09/09

MULTI-EVENT: MYRTLE BEACH MEET & EAT

hosted by: AtlantaGal & Chickahominy

GRANDSTRANDGEOCACHING.COM

When: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 from 6:09 PM until 8:09 PM

Where: Cheeseburger in Paradise, 7211 North Kings Highway, Myrtle Beach. We'll be dining inside. Food purchase is optional and NOT required to attend event!

Why: To celebrate the 9th day of the 9th month of the 9th year of this century, chow down on some of the best mini cheeseburgers around, mingle with other cachers, swap geocoins, and earn a smiley for doing it!

This event is open to everyone, and is part of a global multi-event occurring on the same day all around the world. Other participating locations include: Washington, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, New York, Hawaii, Mississippi, Connecticut, Missouri, Nevada, Alabama, New Jersey, Georgia, Maine, Colorado, South Dakota, Illinois, Japan, Portugal, United Kingdom, Australia, Czech Republic and Canada.

All locations will have a uniquely-colored event coin available for purchase. There will be a limited number of Myrtle Beach exclusive coins available at the event only. Wait list for South Carolina residents who want coins, but are unable to attend the event, will be on a first come first serve basis via email contact. Wait list will be contacted immediately following the event if there are any coins remaining. Wait list coin requests are ONLY for SC residents.

During the event, there will be a door prize drawing for some caching-related goodies and other swag. If front parking lot is full, there's a ton of parking behind the establishment.

Please RSVP with the number of people attending on the cache page.

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BEACH SWEEP 2009

Join the Grand Strand Geocachers Association for Beach Sweep 2009!

Cache and Dash SC will be coordinating a group to help clean up of a section of North Myrtle Beach on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 9:00am. We will be working with the folks from SCDHEC-EQC and the City of North Myrtle Beach to clean up the inlets and marshes.

We will meet at the boat landing in Cherry Grove at 53rd Ave North (cache coordinates take you here). People

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BEACH SWEEP 2009 (cont.)

will be bringing boats, but if you have a boat (or kayak, canoe, paddle boat, or even a jetski) please bring it and help out as we can only fit so many people in each boat! Due to the need for a boat to do this 'cache', I've set the terrain at 5. :)

Plan to get wet and possibly muddy as we help to clean up trash that has gotten into the marshes by Cherry Grove.

This is an annual event, moving up and down the Grand Strand to focus on different sections each year (last year we helped out in Surfside Beach). If you can't make it to this location but still want to help in your area on this same date, check out (www.scseagrant.org) for info on a coordinator in the area you wish to help at!

NEW SC LAW AFFECTS GEOCACHERS STATEWIDE

In bill H3794, signed by the governor on June 2, 2009, the South Carolina General Assembly prohibited geocaching on all wildlife management areas, heritage preserves, and all other lands owned by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

The bill changed Section 50 11 2200 (C) and an excerpt is provided below. While the new language has not yet been added to the state's web site, it is the current law.

The door is open to the possibility of some future exceptions, and demonstrating adherence to the current regulation can smooth that path.

I am requesting anyone who has a cache in one of these areas to remove and archive it promptly. Since this message will not reach everyone, I am also asking anyone who becomes aware of caches in WMAs or Heritage Preserves to let me know confidentially so I may contact the cache owner.

There will be the question of why this was done. I don't know specifically, but I have heard from someone at SC DNR that members of their staff have found geocaches placed in sensitive areas on at least three Heritage Preserves.

Thank you for your cooperation.

-Brad / gpsfun
Groundspeak volunteer reviewer for South Carolina

Excerpt from the bill:

Section 50 11 2200 (C)

(C) The following acts or conduct are prohibited and shall be unlawful on all wildlife management areas, heritage preserves, and all other lands owned by the department; provided, however, the department may promulgate regulations allowing any of the acts or conduct by prescribing acceptable times, locations, means, and other appropriate restrictions not inconsistent with the protection, preservation, operation, maintenance, and use of such lands:

...
(30) geocaching;

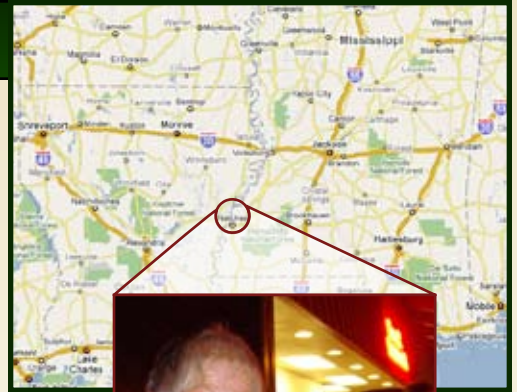
...

(E) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than twenty five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

ON THE ROAD WITH TWEETY & COACH

Well here we are safe and sound, for the time being, at the River View RV Resort in Vidalia, LA sitting not 50 feet from the banks of the Mississippi River, and across the river from Natchez, MS. The river has been rising for the past three or four days and shows no sign of stopping or receding, so we don't know how long we will be able to stay in the campgrounds.

One of the first caches we did was close to the campgrounds, GCT8FN "Vidalia Landing", which had to do with Vidalia's most famous event- the Sandbar Fight. On September 9, 1827, a duel between Samuel Levi Wells, III, and Dr. Thomas H. Maddox, took place on a sandbar near Vidalia, Louisiana. Among the seconds and other witnesses were bitter enemies Major Norris Wright of Rapides Parish and Jim Bowie. The principal duelists chose their pistols, stepped eight paces, fired and missed. The seconds reloaded and Wells and Maddox fired again, but both were still standing. The dispute ended and the two men shook hands and retired to the trees for some wine. After the duelists had completed their duel of honor, shots were fired by some of the bystanders. Two people were killed and Major Norris Wright attacked Jim Bowie with a sword cane. Jim Bowie pulled a knife and killed Norris Wright. After many written accounts in newspapers across the country, the legend was born about the fighting man and the famous weapon was later referred to as the "Bowie Knife". That was the only cache that had any kind of historical interest in Vidalia, unlike Natchez, which was rich in history.



So off we went to Natchez, to seek cache GC19PYG "Magnolia Hall". Magnolia Hall was one of the last great antebellum mansions built in Natchez. It was built in 1858 by Thomas Henderson, a prominent commission merchant in the style of Greek revival architecture. After falling into disrepair, the Natchez Garden Club acquired ownership of the home in 1976, and began renovations which continue today. The exterior of the building has been restored to its original brownstone color. The upstairs houses the Caroline Pack Collection of 18th and 19th century furniture, as well as the Emily Stubbs Kelley Textile Collection, and an exhibit of Pilgrimage costumes that includes a few regal gowns worn by former Pilgrimage queens.

Then it was off other beautiful antebellum mansions in Natchez. First was Choctaw, and cache GCVNH "Choctaw", which was built in 1837. This house was the girl's dormitory for the first school located in Natchez, and is located next door to the Natchez City Auditorium. This home was located across the street from another nice home - Cherokee, which was built on top of the hill because there were laws which prevented the lowering of the elevation. It was believed that the germs that caused yellow fever were in the soil, and to scrape it off would release those germs and infect people.

The next day it was more caches at the beautiful plantations and mansions in Natchez. First was GC19NEG "Big Old Tree", which was situated across the street from Arlington, another antebellum French Style mansion. Sadly enough Arlington caught fire back in 2002 from an electrical short in the attic and was quite extensively damaged. At one time, the home housed over 2000 antique books (one was found to be dated from 1635) as well as much antique furniture. Many items were able to be salvaged, but had to be cleaned of all the soot and grime from the fire in a painstakingly slow process by hand. Next was GC17MRK "Monmouth Plantation". Monmouth Plantation was built in 1818 as a gift for the bride of John Hankinson. It sold to General John Quitman in 1826 with a sales price of \$12,000. Originally built as a two story Federal Style home, Quitman renovated it into a Greek revival style mansion. Though the Mexican War hero was born in New York, he had made his fortune in Mississippi and his wife Eliza came from one of the state's most prominent families. Quitman had embraced enthusiastically the Southern way of life and strongly advocated

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ON THE ROAD WITH TWEETY & COACH (cont.)

secession; though he died before the hostilities of the Civil War, Union soldiers remembered Quitman's sympathies and treated Monmouth roughly. His daughters saved the house from destruction only by pledging loyalty to the United States. Monmouth remained in Quitman's family until just after his daughter Rose died in 1914.

Then it was on to another plantation and cache GC11J4T "Melrose Plantation" which was the estate of John T. McMurrin a lawyer and state senator who was a planter in Natchez from 1830 until the Civil War. The home is a Greek revival home and encompasses the main house and slave quarters. The slave quarters now include painted floor cloths, mahogany punkah, a type of fan, a set of Rococo Revival parlor furniture, a set of Gothic Revival dining room chairs, and bookcases with books dating to the 1700's. A few of the other places we visited today were the Dunleith B & B, circa 1858 (which included on the grounds a gift shop, carriage house and restaurant), Linden B & B circa 1800, Auburn circa 1812, and King's Tavern/Bledsoe House circa 1789 which is supposed to be the oldest house in Natchez. It once operated as a tavern, stage stop and a mail station at the end of the Natchez Trace. It is now a tavern and restaurant that specializes in Hickory smoked prime rib.

Later in the week we took a drive up the Natchez Trace which is a 440-mile-long path extending from Natchez, MS to Nashville, TN, linked the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi rivers. It was a traditional Native American trail and was later also used by early European explorers as both a trade and transit route in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Today, the trail has been commemorated by the 444-mile-long Natchez Trace Parkway, which follows the approximate path of the trace. The trail itself has a long and rich history, filled with brave explorers, dastardly outlaws and daring settlers. Our first cache was GCD93C "Van Dorn", which was located in Wintergreen Cemetery circa 1807 and was one of the oldest cemeteries in Mississippi. It is the burial site of Samuel Gibson the founder of Port Gibson and of Confederate General Earl Van Dorn. Besides the cache in the cemetery, there was a historic marker commemorating the campaign, siege and defense of Vicksburg 1863, and the Battle of Port Gibson, MS, May 1st. We did see the tombstone of Samuel Gibson and many, many more tombstones dating back to the early 1800's. Nearby are the graves of some of the CSA soldiers whose bodies were recovered from the battlefield west of the city.

Next cache along the Trace was GC2B05 "Windsor Ruins" near Rodney, MS which at one time covered 2,600 acres. Smith Coffee Daniell II, the son of an Indian fighter turned farmer and landowner constructed the mansion itself in 1859-1861. In 1849 he married his cousin Catherine Freeland, by whom he had three children. Basic construction of the house, which was designed by David Shroder was done by slave labor. The bricks for use in the 45 foot columns were made in a kiln across the road from the house. There were 29 columns which were covered with mortar and plaster. Skilled carpenters were brought in from New England for the finished woodwork and the iron stairs, column capitals and balustrades were manufactured in St. Louis and shipped down the Mississippi River to the Port of Bruinsburg several miles west of Windsor. The mansion cost about \$175,000.00 (this would be about \$3.5 million dollars today) to build and was completed in 1861. However Smith Daniell lived in the home only a few weeks before he died at the age of 34. When completed, the home contained over 25 rooms, each with its own fireplace and among other innovations, featured interior baths supplied with water from a tank in the attic. During the American Civil War, the home was used by both Union and Confederate troops. The home survived the war and continued to be used for social gatherings in the area. Mark Twain stayed at the home and is said to have used the roof observatory to observe the Mississippi River. On February 17, 1890, a guest left a lighted cigar on a balcony (it is also said that someone dropped a cigar or cigarette in a pile of wood chips left by carpenters working on the 3rd floor). The family said the fire started around 3 p.m. in the afternoon. They had planned a seated dinner and had gone into town to pick up the mail. Riding back they saw flames shooting through the shingled roof. The fire burned from top to bottom making it impossible to extinguish, and the house was completely destroyed in the conflagration. The only remnants today are 23 haunting columns, a few pieces of china, and a set of the

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ON THE ROAD WITH TWEETY & COACH (cont.)

wrought-iron stairs and portions of the balustrade. Windsor's ruins have appeared in several motion pictures including Raintree County (1957) starring Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift and most recently in the movie Ghosts of Mississippi with Whoopi Goldberg, Alec Baldwin and James Woods.

Next was GCY3DG "Springfield Plantation" which was another of the many lovely plantations in the Natchez area and was established in 1784 and the site for the marriage of Andrew Jackson to his sweetheart, Rachel Robards, in 1791, and is thought to be the first plantation in this great state.

Our last cache of the day was a beauty, too. It was GC38A9 "Ghost Town" and was located in Rodney, MS. Rodney was a thriving Mississippi river town in the 19th century. It went into decline following the Civil War when the Mississippi River shifted two miles to the west. Once we found it, and that was quite a chore, it was ghost town of sorts as we did see a few people, strange as they looked, but for the most part it was deserted. All the homes and barns were collapsed and destroyed all except for the Old Rodney Presbyterian Church, where the cache was located. The Rodney Church was chartered in January 1828, as the Presbyterian Church of Petit Gulf. Rodney was a thriving Mississippi river town in the 19th century. The gunboat Rattler was stationed at the port of Rodney to keep order in the town. The admiral had left strict orders that no one was to leave the ship, but on Sunday morning, September 12, 1863, twenty-four of the sailors, including a lieutenant and a captain, decided to attend services at the Presbyterian Church. They entered just before services began, dressed in their best uniforms, and quietly seated themselves in the congregation. As the minister announced his text, a Lieutenant of the Confederate cavalry walked up the aisle to the pulpit. Apologizing to the minister, he turned and announced that his men had surrounded the church and demanded that the Union sailors surrender. One of the sailors jumped behind a door and took a shot at Lieutenant Allen. There was pandemonium, as the citizens dived under the pews for safety. The skeleton crew left aboard the Rattler heard the commotion and began firing their guns at the church. The church and four homes were hit. One of the cannon balls was imbedded in the facade of the church. It was never removed from the brick and is still visible today.

Well that's about all for this month! Next month we will continue our caching in Natchez, MS, and start our trip up the Natchez Trace Parkway to Clinton, MS.

Tweety and I would like to say hello to all our friends and fellow cachers in Myrtle Beach! We hope everyone is well and we can't wait to see you all in a few months.
Happy Caching!

Tweety & Coach.....ftjak
Dori & Dick

Read more about ftjak's adventures on their blog:
www.2lostsoulsotheroad.blogspot.com