

# Geocaching for Noobs by a Noob

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# What is Geocaching?

□ From, where else, Wikipedia:

- Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container (usually a tupperware or ammo box) containing a logbook. Larger containers can also contain items for trading, usually toys or trinkets of little value. Geocaching is most often described as a "game of high-tech hide and seek", sharing many aspects with orienteering, treasure-hunting, and waymarking.

# Again, in Non-Geek

- Geocaching is like a high tech scavenger hunt
- Check a site like [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) to find a cache local to you
- Use your global positioning system device or other navigational skills to find the cache
- Once you've found it, log it at the site and in the cache log

# An Example: Bob's Big Boy

- Apologies to anyone who may be traveling to Honolulu for this cache

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the details for a geocache named "Bob's Big Boy Honolulu". The browser's address bar shows the URL: [http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache\\_details.aspx?guid=dfb4b5e6-a9e0-4cb0-9644-20aeda57e...](http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?guid=dfb4b5e6-a9e0-4cb0-9644-20aeda57e...). The page content includes:

- Cache Name:** Bob's Big Boy Honolulu
- Created by:** Kailua AI
- Hidden:** 10/19/2007
- Size:** (Small)
- Difficulty:** ★★☆☆☆
- Terrain:** ★☆☆☆☆ (1 is easiest, 5 is hardest)
- Coordinates:** N 21° 20.707 W 157° 53.666
- UTM:** 4Q E 614639 N 2360746
- Location:** In Hawaii, United States
- Print:** Simple [No Logs] [5 Logs] [10 Logs] | Driving Directions NEW!
- Download:** [Read About Waypoint Downloads]
- File Formats:** LOC Waypoint File | GPX eXchange File | Send to GPS | Send to Phone
- Disclaimer:** Please note: To use the services of geocaching.com, you must agree to the terms and conditions in our disclaimer.
- Image:** A photograph of a "Big Boy" restaurant logo.
- Description:** From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia "Big Boy is a restaurant chain started in 1936 by Bob Wien in Glendale, California as Bob's Big Boy. The chain is best-known for its trademark chubby boy in..."
- Navigation:** log your visit, view gallery, watch listing, ignore listing, bookmark listing
- Map:** A map of Honolulu, Hawaii, showing the location of the cache near Pearl Harbor.
- Attributes:** Includes icons for accessibility (wheelchair, hearing aid, etc.) and a link to "movers in hawaii Household & Commercial Moves, Free Estimate, Box Delivery 808-922-5151".

# Using your GPS gets you close

- In my experience, the low end GPS I have (Garmin Nuvi 200) gets me within about 10 meters of the coordinates
- Even if you're right there, you still have to find something you've never seen before.

# Let's look at Bob's



# Unfortunately, Bob's burned

- There was a fire recently which has it closed for renovation
- Fortunately, the cache itself was safe
- I found this one earlier but went back to take pictures for this session
- Coordinates: N 21° 20.707 W 157° 53.666
- Hint: Make like a 6 year old who looks for bugs and slugs under a ....

# An Island on an Island



**Now You Don't See it...**



**...Now You Do**



# A Closer Look



# Another Urban Cache



# What is this?

- It's a public recreation center; it is actually part of the complex where I go swimming every Thursday night
- Coordinates: N 21° 21.223 W 157° 54.627
- Hint: Count Seven...As you walk n/w/e on the sidewalk...MAGNETIC!!!

# Under a Metal Plate



# Even More Urban (Shopping Center Parking Lot?)



# Semi-Urban, Semi-Rural

□ *And really clever to boot...*



**That was Before... this is After**



# What's Missing?



# Make Sure You Log In Online and in the Cache Logbook

- This is one that's easy to forget if you have to go home and get on your computer to do it
- Fortunately, smartphones, many with GPS <ken>inbuilt</ken> make this easier

# A Contest

- Yes, you can win a prize, right here at KansasFest 2009, from AZUnplugged!

## Find the Cache Closest to Rockhurst

- This is Geocaching.com's cache identifier: GC1GNHE
- I have not tried to find this myself
- It's the closest non-virtual cache (1.1 miles)
- To win, please bring back a picture of the cache

# Have Fun!

- Geocaching is a fun activity that can be done by individuals or families
- Aside from the cost of equipment, monetary investment is non-existent
- It can be both addicting and frustrating
- Most of all, have a great time!