Geocaching for Noobs by a Noob

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KansasFest 2009
Rockhurst University
July 22, 2009
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 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
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/n/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 inbuilt make this easier
A Contest

Yes, you can win a prize, right here at KansasFest 2009, from A2Unplugged!
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!