



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

Geocaching News Around Texas

What's inside:

Texas Challenge & Block Party

Lone Star Roundup

Membership Coin Design Winner

Cacher of the Month

Cache of the Month

CITO Across Texas Scrapbook

Geocaching with myrthman

Story Board

and more!



Who's ready for a Block Party at Texas Challenge?

Contents

Click on any page numbers to navigate to that page!

6



Lone Star RoundUp

Check out the event and stock up on swag!



Geocachers of the Month

This month's geocacher duo is from the South Texas Region.

7

5

It's Official!

The 23rd Texas Challenge & 25th B-day Block Party

See how TXGA will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Geocaching in Block Party style, with lots of new activities and geocaching opportunities!



CITO Across Texas

See our scrapbook of memories from our 30 CITO's Across Texas

Geocache of the Month

11



Check out this suey-t cache from the Central Texas region!

12



2025 Membership Coin Design Contest

And the winner is...
See the winning design!

TXGA Mission/Membership	<u>3</u>
TXGA Board Page	<u>4</u>
Benefits of TXGA Membership	<u>13</u>
Geocaching with myrthman	<u>14</u>
Spooky for Geocachers!	<u>14</u>
Geo-Event Calendar	<u>15</u>





MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas Geocaching Association (TXGA) is a volunteer organization. We strive to be the foremost advocate for Geocaching in Texas and to promote the family-oriented activity of geocaching through a central website, social media, workshops, events and information displays, while encouraging responsible stewardship of public lands. TXGA is committed to celebrating the diversity of our membership in all regions of Texas and beyond. From finders to hiders, veteran to novice geocachers, our differences allow us to serve and support each other while building a dynamic geocaching environment in Texas and the greater community.

**JOIN
NOW**

[Click here to join](#)

Story Board



FINANCE & COMPLIANCE DIRECTOR - MIJKIE

The great thing about geocaching is that sometimes the greatest adventures can often be found in your own neighborhood. This will contain spoilers on how I got it, but I will try my best not to identify the actual cache. But, first, a little back story.

In 2019, HotRichGirl's grandfather passed and she inherited his geocaching "stuff". There were coins, compasses, a gps device, and random trinkets that made no sense to us. HotRichGirl shared stories of his adventures travelling with his RV all over the country and geocaching. Supposedly, this weird hobby included performing random tasks like running a magnet on a stick all the way down a sign post, just to pull up a container with a sheet of paper in it. That idea did not appeal to me in the slightest! Nevertheless, we decided to give geocaching a shot.

There was one cache along our daily commute that was just not to be found. GZ was right in the middle of the road and it had a 5 difficulty but not a very high terrain. The description and logs/notes were cryptic, noting that it was offset, but definitely not in the middle of the road. However, within any reasonable distance of GZ and noted offset, there was sidewalk; a street sign; a storm drain, and a telephone pole. Every couple of months, I would give it another casual search and eventually, I remembered the story HotRichGirl had shared about her grandfather using a magnet to fish a cache out of a sign!

I was so excited, thinking that I finally had it. I had reached the point where signing a little piece of paper was worth me investing in a collapsible ladder, a strong magnet, and an extending pole! I couldn't wait to finally get this smiley!

Waiting until dusk, when traffic died down a bit, I went back with all my gear and a few high powered flashlights. Alas, after about an hour of awkward searching, trying to be ever so slightly discreet while completely out in the open, I called it quits. I guess that wasn't how I was going to find this elusive cache.

Fast forward a few months and I happened across a cacher who we learned lived in the same neighborhood. I noted that he had found a cache that I was having no luck with and he patiently asked me to explain what I had seen and what I had tried. After a thorough explanation, his response was along the lines of "it seems you have looked everywhere except down." AHA! That storm drain! I had reached my arms in there countless times but I guess it was time to explore this path a bit more.

Revisiting the site, I noticed that even the storm drain was at the edge of the offset coordinates, so I had to start considering that it might be actually down there! Since I had never been in a storm drain before, I didn't know where to start. Can I just lift the manhole cover and go in? Will I fit? Can I get out? Luckily, right up the road, a manhole cover was not completely covering the hole so I was able to get a good view in, which confirmed that I was not going to easily enter or exit that way. I needed to find an outlet and hope I could fit in that way.

After looking at every bridge, overpass, and culvert, I found a perfect entry point where I could walk in, if I bent my neck. Once again, my excitement was really high. This must be it! Things were going great until I reached the first intersection underground. Guess what doesn't work in a series of concrete pipes underground... That's right... GPS. I had no idea if I had gone far enough, if I had to go further, or even if I was in the right series of drains. I tried reaching a signal through those manholes I couldn't fit through but it was useless. I needed to go out and pace the distance. Easy enough, I guess.

I made my way out of the storm drain, noted the distance above ground, and returned. I was a bit off with my stride underground, but the next attempt let me know I was close to where I needed to be. I even saw a manhole entrance close by that could have been the one I had contemplated entering. After searching the area, I finally found it!!! This little bison tube was in the seam of where two pipes met overhead. However, as I tried to get it out, I wound up jamming it into place in such a way that there was nothing I could do to get it to move. Oh well... I knew where it was, so I just needed to come back with some pliers and a screwdriver.

I got home and told HotRichGirl all about my adventures and after laughing at what all had gone into finding this, we both headed back to the cache and signed our names, years after saying we were not interested in being the kind of hardcore geocachers that put magnets down street signs, much less the kind that trudged through storm drains.

MICHAEL CASH



TXGA Board Members

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Brian Erickson (BE Viking)

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Patricia Elkins (MsPatt)

Finance & Compliance Director

Michael Cash (mijkie)

Secretary

Patricia Maldonado (Ca\$hQueen)

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IT/UX Director

William Davis (TerraViators)

Region Reps

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Marcellus Cadd (atreides)

East

Kevin Boatman (K13)

North

Michael McKinney (McKsix)

South

Cheri Tummelson (CrazyChickC)

Southeast

Elisa Reynoso (georeyna)

West

Tony Mollhagen (shellbadger)



*Join us as we
celebrate 25 years of
Geocaching with a
Block Party!*



TEXAS CHALLENGE

MARCH 15, 2025

GCAMM1H



Team Competition - The cornerstone of Texas Challenge has always been the team competition. This event is a competition to see which team can find the most caches in the allotted time and win the coveted "Golden Ammo Can". This year, we are encouraging competitors from outside of Texas to join the contest. We'll have more details on how you can compete. Log a "Will Attend" to find out when the registration link will be available (in the coming weeks).

New Activities for the Block Party:

GPS Goober Games - Floresville is the "Peanut Capitol of Texas". We are planning a series of caching-themed games and activities that will let cachers test their skills and earn prizes and raffle tickets for our raffle.



Gadget Caches - At this year's Challenge we will have a series of Gadget caches deployed in the area, showcasing the talents of multiple builders throughout the State.

Photo Competition - Do you have a great picture from your geocaching adventures? Why not enter it in the photo contest?

Night Cache Trail - El Camino Real de los Tejas is a national historic trail that was a major thoroughfare from the 18th century Spanish colonial era in Spanish Texas. The trail was instrumental in the settlement, development and history of Texas. Our team will be utilizing this trail to create a special night cache trail.



GeoArt Installations - The host team is actively putting together multiple geocaching art installations on the country roads near Floresville TX our host city. These Art Installations will celebrate local Texas history and our theme - 25th Geocaching Birthday Bash.

For more details, click [here!](#)

LONE STAR ROUNDUP

Davis Mountains State Park

Saturday 10/19/24

GCAQD1T



*Have you bought your
Roundup swag?*

**While
supplies
last!**



3" Event Coin
(front & back)

Event T-Shirt



**Click here
To order**

**Packages still
available**

Pathtag
Set of 5



CACHER(S) OF THE MONTH

SOUTH TEXAS

The Soto Clan
Yira0707 & SFC Soto, F

TXGA: Tell us a little about yourselves.

We're both from the west side of Puerto Rico, a small town called "Moca". We love the outdoors, camping, hiking, cycling and adventurous activities. We also love talking to people about geocaching; We've gotten over a dozen friends and family members to join the geocaching community. Most of our logs are signed as "The Soto Clan" or "TSC" - that way we don't take a lot of space on the logs. Yira0707 is an Artist and my copilot on our adventures. SFC Soto, F is a retired Army Veteran of 36 yrs of military service.

TXGA: How did you get started caching?

We got started in 2006 while stationed in Massachusetts, when our friend and brother "Aaron Lasch" invited us to try this new game he found out about (don't know from where) called geocaching. We got a little hooked on it, but we stopped after a year or so of only doing the basic membership. After about 10 years, we started again and we became premium members for more access to better caches.



TXGA: What do you most enjoy about geocaching?

Getting in the outdoors and discovering new places that you can't see or find when you travel commercially.

TXGA: What are some highlights of your caching career so far?

1. Attending the last 4 Geowoodstocks
2. Becoming part of the 1st group of Puerto Ricans to have completed the Texas 254 County Challenge, Yira0707 - Finisher #246 and SFC Soto, F - Finisher #247
3. Having the honor of displaying my Trackables in Geocoinfest 2022 and Geowoodstock XX
4. Having visited and cached in 48 of the 50 US States



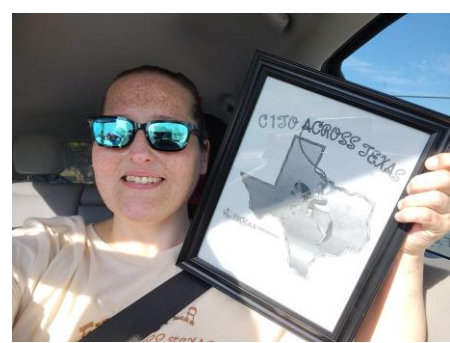
TXGA: How did you come up with your Caching Names?

For my Geowife, it was easy. Yira is her nickname and favorite numbers 07. For me, it was a last-minute thing while deployed in Afghanistan. While on a break, some soldiers told me they were going geocaching and since I couldn't access my original account from 2006, I made a new one so I wouldn't miss out on this great opportunity. That's where SFC Soto, F came from - my name and rank.



TXGA: What else would you like to share?

- Currently we're working on getting all the counties in the United States; we're about 1/3 of the way. Also, we're getting the oldest active cache in each state or the 2 oldest in each state.
- We've completed all the counties in 8 states, and we've logged a find in 12 of the oldest active caches in 10 different states, 1 in BC, Canada and 1 in Puerto Rico.
- We also want to let everyone know that our Border Collie is a geocacher AKA: ChicoTBC (his caching name). He goes caching with us and has gone with other cachers also.







CACHE OF THE MONTH

CENTRAL TEXAS



GC Code:	<u>GC7M0QY</u>
Name:	Smoking Veracity
Cache Type:	Traditional
Region:	Central
County:	Washington
Cache Owners:	BlueStarsForever, SockMonkey69
Published:	March 24, 2018
Favorite Points:	97

The Cache of the Month for the Central Region comes from the far southeastern edge of it. Imagine driving between cities... You pull into an unassuming barbecue joint for some food and rest from driving. You make your order and, while you're waiting, you open your geocaching app of choice to see what caches are of interest in the area.



Behold! There's a regular sized cache on the back of the restaurant with a bunch of favorites! You run outside (of course you're going to run if you're able!) and find an homage to pork and, contained within, an ammo can with some of the best swag you've ever seen in a cache!

A lot of popular caches are found inside or close to cities, but sometimes the most interesting caches can be found in the most unexpected places. All it takes is for one person (or, in this case, two) with passion to create something that can bring surprising smiles to our faces when we least expect them. That is why we're highlighting this cache and thanking its owners for creating something to bring joy to us all!



2025 TXGA Membership Coin Design Contest

**Congratulations to
thewildroseoftexas!**



Front



Back

Thank you to all who sent in designs!

What are the benefits of being a member of The Texas Geocaching Association?



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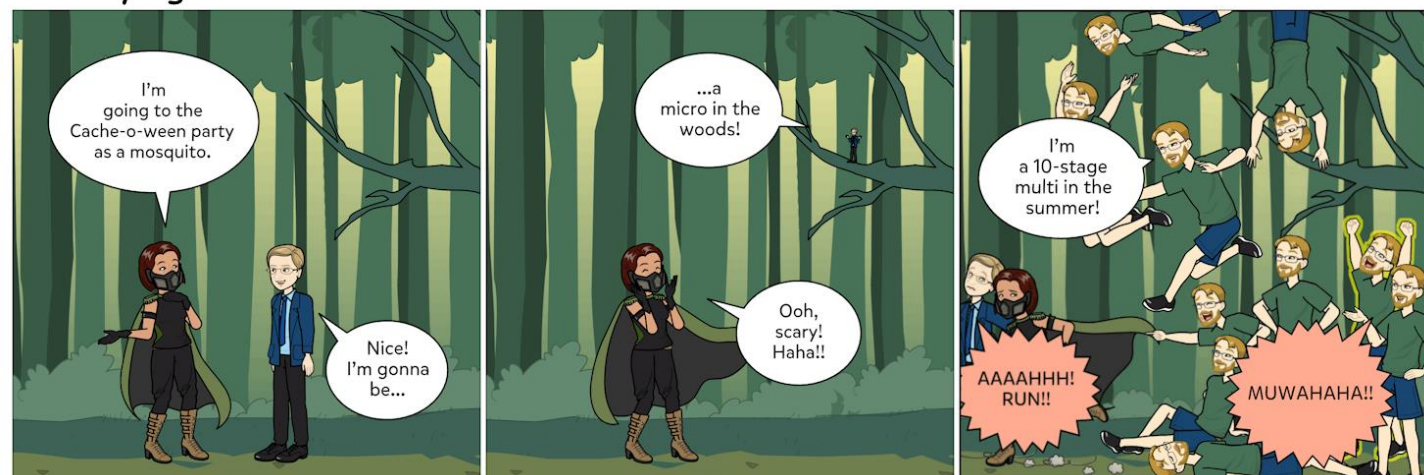
- 1) Supporting and promoting geocaching in Texas
- 2) Providing the funds needed to enhance TXGA events/activities
- 3) Membership Coin/Pathtag*
- 4) Voting rights to elect TXGA Officers
- 5) Nomination rights for TXGA Hall of Fame candidates
- 6) First to receive the monthly TXGA Newsletter
- 7) Opportunity to design our membership coin and win a free Family Membership
- 8) First Choice to participate in TXGA Committees

* Single and Family Memberships

Click here



Become a Member!



More of myrthman's comics can be found at myrthman.blogspot.com.

Phobias that some Texas Geocachers have overcome:

Acrophobia – Fear of Heights

Arachnophobia – Fear of Spiders

Dendrophobia – Fear of Trees

Coimetrophobia – Fear of Cemeteries

Hodophobia – Fear of Travel

Insectophobia – Fear of Insects

Ophidiophobia – Fear of Snakes

Phyllophobia – Fear of Leaves

Technophobia – Fear of Advanced Technology

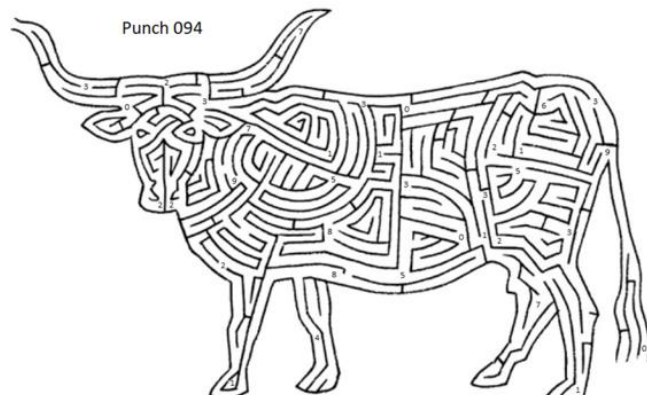
Thermophobia – Fear of Intolerance to Heat

Maybe one they haven't overcome:

Nomophobia – Fear of Losing Mobile Phone Service

Conquer your fear of puzzles with this one!

□
Punch 094-Mystery (aka "Moomazing")



Click here
for puzzle
checker

This puzzle was part of the
20th Annual Texas Challenge
Contest 2022
Conroe, TX

Upcoming Geo-events by Region*

Mark your
calendar!

CENTRAL

10/03/24	<u>GCAWT17</u>	Sweet Treats XVI
10/03/24	<u>GCAX980</u>	No Postage Due
10/05/24	<u>GCAXQCE</u>	GeoTx Geocachers Breakfast October 2024
10/11/24	<u>GCAY2KW</u>	October Bull Creek Park CITO
10/11/24	<u>GCAY79J</u>	Let's have a really fine lunch
12/21/24	<u>GCAYB3V</u>	Winter Solstice 2024

NORTH

10/01/24	<u>GCAY3XC</u>	WORLD POSTCARD DAY, The Art of Caring
10/03/24	<u>GCAXKGD</u>	Holy Cow lets have a burger
10/05/24	<u>GCAXWTV</u>	TOGA October Meet & Greet - Earn a Souvenir!
10/06/24	<u>GCAY97M</u>	Visiting Texas
10/06/24	<u>GCAXY6G</u>	Plano Parks and Trails Tour 019
10/07/24	<u>GCAWH8H</u>	D.A.W.G.S. Oktoberfest
10/07/24	<u>GCAYARD</u>	Plano Parks and Trails Tour 020
10/09/24	<u>GCAYATT</u>	Plano Parks and Trails Tour 021
10/10/24	<u>GCAXJ7T</u>	PAG enjoys Edmond's Burgers
10/11/24	<u>GCAYAVT</u>	Plano Parks and Trails Tour 022
10/12/24	<u>GCAX1YD</u>	Pizza Time
10/13/24	<u>GCAX7Z8</u>	Big Boy Heartland of America Tour (Fort Worth)
10/13/24	<u>GCAYAX0</u>	Plano Parks and Trails Tour 023
10/14/24	<u>GCAX34F</u>	Geo-Book Club : Longitude
10/17/24	<u>GCAXJ86</u>	PAG enjoys Country Burger
10/19/24	<u>GCAVHF9</u>	Garland GeoTour 2.0 Kickoff Party
10/19/24	<u>GCAYBW1</u>	GGT 2.0 Wrap Up Party
10/24/24	<u>GCAXJ8F</u>	PAG knows the Sky (rocket burger) is the limit...
10/26/24	<u>GCAYHGA</u>	Fall Caching in Dallas!
10/26/24	<u>GCAX03Q</u>	Road Trip! - Texas
11/04/24	<u>GCAWH8Q</u>	D.A.W.G.S. Chillin'

SOUTH

10/03/24	<u>GCAY725</u>	LMP Celebrates a New Job
10/04/24	<u>GCAWFA0</u>	RGV Geocaching 10/04/24 Meet & Greet
10/11/24	<u>GCAYFB1</u>	RGV Geocaching 10/11/24 Meet & Greet
10/12/24	<u>GCAXK84</u>	A "CAN DO" Flash Mob
10/18/24	<u>GCAYCXH</u>	Earlybird Adventure Day Launch
10/18/24	<u>GCAYFB4</u>	RGV Geocaching 10/18/24 Meet & Greet
10/19/24	<u>GCAYD42</u>	Halloween Melons Are For October
10/25/24	<u>GCAYFB9</u>	RGV Geocaching 10/25/24 Spooky Meet & Greet
11/24/24	<u>GCAXT2F</u>	Hey Buddy - How About a Treat - IX
11/24/24	<u>GCAXT23</u>	Hey Buddy - Let's Clean Up the Beach - X
11/26/24	<u>GCAXT2T</u>	Park & Gab: Pizza - VIII
03/15/25	<u>GCAMM1H</u>	23 RD Texas Challenge & 25 th B-day Block Party*

Upcoming Geo-events by Region*

Mark your
calendar!

SOUTHEAST

10/01/24	<u>GCAY3DT</u>	World Postcard Day Event
10/01/24	<u>GCAX7FA</u>	Board the Flying Saucer for World Post Card Day!
10/02/24	<u>GCAXYTC</u>	CLUB UFO: National Name Your Car Day
10/03/24	<u>GCAXJ7H</u>	ABC: Lunchtime event 🍷 N 🥒, take 2
10/05/24	<u>GCAXT0G</u>	mmmmm donuts - C (#100)
10/05/24	<u>GCAXT1A</u>	Hey Buddy, Let's Clean Up Another Park - C (#100)
10/05/24	<u>GCAXVBQ</u>	MWG's Geocaching Swap Meet Event!
10/06/24	<u>GCAXT1T</u>	Sweet Thing has a Sweet Tooth - XCII
10/07/24	<u>GCAY9B9</u>	Will Cache for Food #166
10/07/24	<u>GCAXV5G</u>	FIRST MONDAY IN MID COUNTY OCTOBER 2024
10/08/24	<u>GCAY0WD</u>	SE GeoFriends FTF #26
10/08/24	<u>GCAXE6C</u>	W.A.L.K ! Woodlands Area Lunch Klub #40
10/09/24	<u>GCAYBT8</u>	Club UFO: International Beer and Pizza Day
10/11/24	<u>GCAY35D</u>	Paper cuts from the Pole? (VIII)
10/13/24	<u>GCAYEYV</u>	BB's The Curse of the Goatman Earthcache Event!
10/15/24	<u>GCAYEVE</u>	Third Tuesday Eat & Greet in October
10/23/24	<u>GCAYF1X</u>	Club UFO - National Boston Cream Pie Day
10/30/24	<u>GCAXYT1</u>	BONUS CLUB UFO: National Checklist Day
11/06/24	<u>GCAXZ2G</u>	Club UFO - Two Trips 'Round the Sun
11/08/24	<u>GCAYCK7</u>	This Event Will Hit The Spot
11/09/24	<u>GCATMZJ</u>	Texas Geocampers at Lake Somerville

WEST

10/17/24	<u>GCAVQWM</u>	TXGA Roundup - Locks of Love Flash Mob
10/18/24	<u>GCAW3J3</u>	TXGA Roundup - Friday Dinner Meet and Greet
10/18/24	<u>GCAVRZT</u>	TXGA Roundup - Marfa Lights Viewing
10/18/24	<u>GCAW3N1</u>	TXGA RoundUp - Friday After Hours
10/19/24	<u>GCAQD1T</u>	TXGA Lone Star Roundup 2024
10/19/24	<u>GCAVT03</u>	TXGA Roundup - Ice Cream Social
10/19/24	<u>GCAVT0X</u>	TXGA Roundup - Cookout/Pot Luck
10/20/24	<u>GCAVT12</u>	TXGA Roundup - CITO

HIGHLIGHTS OUTSIDE OF TEXAS:

10/05/24	<u>GCAJ6MOP</u>	Going Caching 2024
10/19/24	<u>GCAGKJF</u>	GeoCoinFest 2024
02/02/25	<u>GCAKZ9Y</u>	Yuma Block Party
02/15/25	<u>GCAKV1F</u>	Bamarama
05/10/25	<u>GCAHHQQ</u>	Mingo Madness
05/24/25	<u>GCANXX1</u>	GeoWoodstock XXI
07/12/25	<u>GCAVHMK</u>	CacheFest Hawaii
08/16/25	<u>GCAPFHC</u>	2nd Annual Rocky Mountain Geo-Rendezvous

