

Geo Caching



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▶ Ride through Damariscotta, Bristol Mills and New Harbor on Rte. 130 and enjoy the view of the ocean and the Pemaquid Lighthouse, cache (GCV4CX) is located nearby. Can you find it?

▶ Lets ride to Fort Kent! It's a virtual cache which means there is something to see. (GC17T3C) Fish River, Glacial Pots. Glacial potholes, I have to see those and they are in Maine!

▶ How about a Witches Leg in BucksPort? Visit (GC7C06). This one is a "Virtual Cache" and if the traffic is light you maybe able to park close enough to get credit for it without ever leaving the seat of the bike!

Geocaching has caught on in the state of Maine in a big way. It's a great way to get out and have fun. The basic premise is to use a handheld GPS enabled device to help guide you to a hidden "cache" and sign the log! It's that simple. How many caches are there in the State? The last time I did a query, the state of Maine had 3,488 Caches!

"Yes, but are there any at interesting places I might like to ride?" Many Caches are located in places worth visiting, places I might never have gone to before I became a Geocacher.

It's Saturday Morning and the bike is sitting in the driveway, washed and ready to go. All I need is someplace interesting to ride. But where? Maine is filled with wonderful spots, great roads and unique sights. Trying to pick just one can leave you bewildered. Maybe you're ready to try something different?

How about a little game of hide and seek? Do you still have that GPS Santa brought you? Try your hand at modern day treasure hunting and explore Maine with new eyes. It's amazing what's been hidden, sometimes just around the corner from where you live! Combining two wheels and treasure hunting isn't just for the adventure bike crowd either with a little ingenuity, almost any motorcycle can get you there. Let me take you along for the ride.

I'm cruising the mid coast, with fierce determination. "Argh!" the pirate within me bellows, "Buried treasure lies ahead!" The Ducati Monster sings below me with its Big Twin song. I hum in my helmet some best forgotten tune. Pulling in the clutch to downshift as I apply the front brake, I roll to a stop. Checking the paper map again, I find the closest place I can safely park the bike near the cache coordinates. The road to my right looks like it will get me fairly close. Now we are pointed in a new direction on a smaller local access road, less than a mile to go.

Oh, its the start of that all excited feeling. I am on my way to find treasure! I have a map printed out in my tank bag, a electronic GPS to help guide me in when I get closer and a pen to sign the log to prove I was there. Now, all I have to do is find the hidden Cache! I park at the suggested parking spot and walk to where I "think" the cache will be.

"This is an easy one," I tell myself as I scan the area

By Motorcycle in Maine!



looking for tell-tale signs of the hidden container. I look at my GPS and the arrow that is supposed to point to where the treasure is. The distance counter goes up and down as I walk in circles past a tree with a hole in the trunk. I peak inside. Nothing. I go back and start again and I come back to the same spot, scratching my head. I reread the hint, have an epiphany, and look down at the base of the tree just beyond the roots. I must have walked past that spot a dozen times. Just poking out from under a pile of rocks is a plastic container with the loot! I uncover it and rush back to the bike. Twisting off the lid, I find trinkets for the kids (if you take something, leave something); Geocoins, traceable items that can be tracked online as they travel from one location to another and the Holy Grail; the log. I sign it. "Jester4Always." Most people use a made up identifier for their signature, and mine is now added to the bottom of the list. I look at the names on the list and wonder where all these people may have come from.

I take a couple of photos and carefully re-hide the cache just as I found it. After enjoying the scenery for a few minutes, in this case, the

breakwater at Rockland Harbor. I get back on the monster and am off to find more treasure.

According to Maine's geo caching website, there are about 51 caches that mention waterfalls in the state. You can bet I will be looking for some of those in the year to come. I've enjoyed using my motorcycle on caching outings. Regardless, if it's a days outing or a weekend trip, there's a chance near where you'll be. If you are new to the sport, I would suggest you read the "frequently asked questions" at www.geocaching.com/faq/ to learn more about geocaching in general. It's a great place to start.

Need a little more help? Want to converse with like minded folks about geocaching locally? There is no finer group more willing to help then the folks at www.geocachingmaine.org It's a great group of people, committed to the growth of the sport. The Geocaching community is much like the motorcycling community. There are plenty of wonderful people to meet.

Lastly, I would like to say, please, Cache in... trash out. Even on a bike there is room. Good Luck!

