

Are You Geocacher Enough?

Road Rally Routes Packet

Included in this packet are the three routes and a few maps that may help you out. They are named Grass Lake, Mason Tract and Kirtland. As we learned at the event, auto routing on your GPS may NOT be the way to go, but this is half the fun of Geocaching in Northern Michigan!

We have not included our phone numbers on this packet, but if you are in the MiGO Phone-A-Friend list, we are on there. Sleepyweasel, MrsSleepyweasel, Radman and Vanman are the creators of this event, and can help out on the caches if you need it.

The caches are all active caches, and you will be able to get them into a GPX file if you want, or you can do it the way we did at the event and use those thumbs to enter it all by hand! Please note there are duplicates listed here as they were included in more than one route.

Some of the areas in this loop could end you up lost in a swamp or Kirtland Warbler habitat if you get turned the wrong way. We included key turns in the road and corners just so you can be sure you are on the right path, many of these roads don't have names. Maps show these turns in various colors. Caches are marked as red dots, turns as other colors. The names of the turns have no significance, it is just how they were named for the event and were good landmarks in case someone had troubles.

There are many more caches not far from the ones in this packet, so be sure to do a PQ and enjoy all the caches we have to offer in this area.

The local zip code is 48653.

Good luck, and enjoy the trails!

Grass Lake Loop

GC1D48A OBM- CCC (Camp Higgins Lake)

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 31.023 W 084° 45.512

UTM: 16T E 678140 N 4931746

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Beginning of State Reforestation

A concern over the depletion of Michigan's forest led in 1899 to the creation of a forestry commission. In 1903 the first state forest was set up by the legislature on cut-over, burned-over lands in Roscommon and Crawford counties. The same year also saw the start of organized forest fire protection and the establishment of Higgins Lake Nursery at its present site. thus began the program of reforestation in Michigan

Civilian Conservation Corps

Under the leadership of president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Civilian Conservation Corps camps were established during the early thirties. F.D.R. recruited thousands of unemployed youth and sent them in battle against the destruction and erosion our of natural resources. this action brought together two wasted assets- the young men and the land- an effort that saved both.

From 1933 until 1942, young men from Camp Higgins Lake did most of the work at the nursery. They collected pine cone, then their seeds and raised them to saplings on this site. Workers at other camps planted seedlings from the nursery on state park and forest land across the state.

Additional Hints

Purpx bhg gur sehvgf bs gurve ynobe

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Grass Lake Turn 1 N44° 30.976 W084° 46.682

Grass Lake Turn 2 N44° 30.664 W084° 48.163

GC1D3ZM Bug's Life

Placed by: Sleepyweasel & Vanman_30 Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 30.664 W 084° 49.103

UTM: 16T E 673401 N 4930953

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Can you see life from a bug's point of view? Tirelessly seeking for a small reward to take back to share with the colony? Collecting and save what you find so everyone can feast, celebrate & enjoy the rewards life was to offer?

Sound familiar? "Are YOU Geocacher Enough?" Come on, really, are ya? YOU SURE?

Grass Lake Turn 3 N44° 30.286 W084° 49.046

Grass Lake Turn 4 N44° 29.791 W084° 51.095

Grass Lake Turn 5 N44° 30.667 W084° 51.050

Grass Lake Turn 6 N44° 30.625 W084° 51.594

GC1D3ZX  **OBM- Grass Lake Fire Tower**

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 31.061 W 084° 51.980

UTM: 16T E 669571 N 4931587

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Forest fires have proven to rate among some of Michigan's worst disasters in our state's history. After logging left the state's forests in ruins, and fires took a large portion of the remaining forests left, the government worked to protect and restore the forests of Michigan. Armed with only a backpack, shovel, bucket and basic provisions men were sent out to the highest peaks to keep watch for troubles in the woods. While I am continuing searching, I am yet to find any more information about this site other than a fire tower once stood here. Small remains of concrete can be seen in the trail road. Today, two towers stand at the CCC museum at the North Higgins Lake State park. The trail along the East-West County line provides a little sand but it never stopped our minivan before

Grass Lake Turn 7 N44° 31.371 W084° 52.015

Grass Lake Turn 8 N44° 31.524 W084° 52.255

Grass Lake Turn 9 N44° 30.660 W084° 52.262

Grass Lake Turn 10 N44° 30.834 W084° 54.251

GC15M15  **Camping along Grass Lake**

Placed by: SleepyWeasel73 Placed Date: 8/26/2007

N 44° 29.923 W 084° 55.661

UTM: 16T E 664748 N 4929355

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

After several years, we decided to pull our original Grass Lake cache. The area had a few newer caches around but nothing to show of this lake. So we cleaned, refilled & put a MiGO sticker on the lids before rehidng it in the new location. Our family used to camp out here many years ago since it such a remote place. Good luck and enjoy. P.S. Please make sure the container seal well. I cleaned the water out for a 2nd time but the container is still good. Thank you



Grass Lake Turn 11 N44° 29.686 W084° 57.057

GC1BEWK  **MLT- Stratford**

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 4/20/2008

N 44° 29.718 W 084° 57.100

UTM: 16T E 662851 N 4928927

Size:  (Regular) Ammo Can **Difficulty:** 

Terrain: 

"Many Michigan ghost towns have vanished almost without a trace. Nothing is left except maybe an open field with lilac bushes and shallow depressions in the ground where houses (and outhouses) once stood. Abandoned buildings go to pieces pretty fast in Michigan's damp climate. It isn't like the Far West, where whole villages may remain intact for decades, preserved in the dry desert air. For this reason, and others, Stratford, in the northeast corner of Missaukee County, is one of Michigan's most satisfactory ghost towns. Signs show you where everything was: The Depot, Main Line, Wye Track, General Store, The Hotel, Smith and Hull Grade, and so on. A larger sign between two posts at roadside on the Moorsetown Road offers a capsule history of the old village...

Stratford, like Deward in Crawford County, was a company town, first, last and always. The company built the town as headquarters for its logging operations, and when timber was gone they packed it up and moved away. The timber- and the town- lasted twelve years. Along with Deward, which was logged off at about the same time, Stratford marked the end of big pine logging days in Lower Michigan

In 1897, the Thayer Lumber Company of Muskegon bought 13,400 acres of timber in the Stratford area and began logging operations on a grand scale with the latest machinery and equipment. Their timber holding at Stratford was one of the only two big stands of virgin white and red pine left in Lower Michigan; the other was at Deward

That same year, the Pere Marquette Railroad extended its Rapid City branch from Kalkaska to Stratford primarily to accommodate the Thayer Company. During the next twelve years, from 1897 to 1908, the railroad hauled an average of thirty-six carloads of logs each day, six days a week, from Stratford to the Thayer mills in Muskegon. The company employed 150 men year around and cut about 40 million board feet annually. All told, they took out an estimated 450 million board feet, and other companies along the thirty-two mile stretch of railroad, Stearns, Dempsey, Butcher and others-probably harvested as many more.

Among the later was Smith & Hull, a Traverse City firm. They built a standard-gauge logging railroad into the woods from Stratford and hauled logs to the Pere Marquette Railroad with their Shay locomotive, probably the same one of the two they would use to log off North Manitou Island in 1909.

In its efforts to preserve the memory of Stratford by marking out the sites, the Department of Conservation was helped immeasurably by Fred Hirzel of Moorestown. Fred was a young man in 1937, and he remembered Stratford very well. His father owned the general store in Moorestown, and Fred delivered beef, butter, and eggs to the logging village.


According to Hirzel, there were two men's shanties for seventy-five men each. The fifteen houses were homes for the railroad employees, company men with families, and village business owners. Two big log barns sheltered twenty teams of horses, and another building housed two hundred head of hogs.

There was a long cook shanty, a blacksmith shop, a general store, a hotel and several saloons. The railroad depot was the busiest place in town. Fred said he counted as many as nine locomotives in the village at one time. One Pere Marquette passenger train came into town every day, and for a dollar you could ride to Traverse City or Petoskey. The crew of the passenger train called it the "Klondike Branch" because the winters were so awful.

The Western Union Telegraph and Cable Company's office was at the depot. "This was the first time we knew what time it was" Hirtel said. "Before then we had to go into Lake City to get the correct time. They got it every day at eleven o'clock from Chicago.

Notes of Interest: The child waypoint is where I believe the Klondike merged with the 2nd line. All the building mentioned are marked with signs. There are a few just across the road from the parking area. If you stand near the "Men's Housing" sign you can see the path the railroad took from the Main Line to meet with the Smith & Hull Grade. The older trees are far enough to allow the train while the younger 3rd growth trees have sprung up along the rail bed. But there is plenty enough there to make it an afternoon in this ghost town

Additional Waypoints

Prefix	Lookup	Name	Coordinate
  RR	TRACKS	Klondike railroad bed (Reference Point)	N 44° 29.705 W 084° 57.128

Note: This appears to have been the Klondike railroad bed just before it meet with the Main Line on the west side of the Depot

Grass Lake Turn 12 N44° 32.371 W084° 57.097

Grass Lake Turn 13 N44° 32.392 W084° 51.981

GC1D407  **OBM- Fletcher**

Placed by: Sleepyweasel & Vanman_30 Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 32.664 W 084° 51.621

UTM: 16T E 669968 N 4934567

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Fletcher shows several different locations depending on which map you are viewing. Little remains for the town but those points on the maps. Some Topo maps show the location of the old Fletcher School house just west of this cache. But since that area is mostly private lands I have chosen this area to highlight the former town of Fletcher. But as most other ghost town in northern Michigan, it was all about the timber. Fletcher was between Stratford, Grayling and Jam One (later named Sharon) but did linger on for several years after other surrounding towns. The cache is a good sized Lock'N'Lock hidden in the usual manner.

Grass Lake Turn 14 N44° 33.262 W084° 51.047

GC1D410 OBM- Beaver Creek Cemetery

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 33.338 W 084° 47.547

UTM: 16T E 675329 N 4935959

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

While the history of logging in this area is well documented, small cemetery's show the history of the logging era. When this cemetery was founded, the lumber camps were cutting at full speed. The timber was hauled by rail or floated by river to western Michigan since most of the local towns where only logging camps and rail road stops. Families were often found running the motels & stores, yet some could be found carving farms from the stump fields. After logging, the next boom in the area was for oil and natural gas.

Grass Lake Turn 15 N44° 33.283 W084° 46.210

GC1BTXE OBM- Land Line at Horrigan's Siding

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 5/1/2008

N 44° 36.050 W 084° 41.667

UTM: 16T E 682970 N 4941195

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

The grounds near the cache have lots of dip and depressions, which typically note building or settlement. I was surprised to see Horrigan Siding actually included on my maps- Map Source is really good. While today this might just be a short drive in the woods, a century ago family depended on this depot to catch the Jackson, Lansing & Saginaw Railroad Company train to the nearby towns of Roscommon, Grayling or point off the main lines to logging villages for work. At the additional waypoint, you will see a marker for the spur line, the "Land Line." Most maps still show two rail lines today, but the modern single track runs along the eastern edge of the older lines. Those old rail beds are still visible along the ditches along the woods. The cache is located on a two track that runs thru state land running parallel to the railroad track and the driveway to A.J.D. Forest products and a Co-generation Power plant. There is no need to come in from their driveway or along the track- so stick to the dirt trail two track.

Additional Waypoints

RR LANDLN

[Land Line marker from the old depot](#)
(Reference Point)

N 44° 36.071 W 084°
41.599

The "Land Line" marker that ran along the rail road spur at Horrigan's Siding. Stand at the marking facing east and you can see thru the smaller trees to view the old railbed

Grass Lake Turn 16 N44° 35.931 W084° 38.937

Grass Lake Turn 17 N44° 34.826 W084° 38.963

GCJ2HF MLT -- Pere Cheney

Placed by: Radman Version 3.0 Placed Date: 4/1/2004

N 44° 34.718 W 084° 38.432

UTM: 16T E 687320 N 4938851

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Reason For Becoming a Lost Town: When the timber ran out, the land was sold at a public auction and the ground proved to be too sandy for farming.

Town History: In 1873 Michigan Central Railroad completed the railway system between Gaylord and Jackson. About that time George Cheney got a land grant from the railway company to establish a stop on the railroad for gas, freight, water and passengers. It was prior know as Center Plains Township. Cheney built a sawmill, and later Cheney House, a Hotel to acomadate the number of fast rising settlers, lumbermen and tourist in the area. On December 1st, 1874 Pere Cheney received a post office. By 1877 the town had 2 sawmills, a general store, a wagon maker, 2 carpenters, a doctor, a hotel telegraph service, and daily mail. Lumber was the only product ever shipped from Pere Cheney. The cemetary was established on about 5 acres, in 1878, located south east from the town. By 1896 the population had drouped from around 1500 people to around 55, 25 people in 1901, and 18 people in 1917. The post office was closed in 1912, and the land was sold off at a public auction on May 7th, 1917. The only reamaing families were farmers of the outter lying area of the town. Diphtheria was spread through the town twice in its short life, once in 1893, and again in 1897. It took several lives, many from the same family at the saem time. The Barber family lost 3 children in less than 3 weeks over Christmas of the 1893 sickness. Many families moved out of the town into neighboring towns of Roscommon and Grayling, or further. There were several fires in Pere Cheney due to the sparks from the mills that were located behind and to the south the cemetary. There was no water supply near Pere Cheney, so the towns people had to use water wagons and shovel dirt to put out these fires. Sometimes they were not successful and had to let the fires burn out themselves. Most of what you will read says that townspeople from neighboring towns tried to burn the town down to stop the spread of disease, I have found nothing to credit that. Although some of the buildings burnt down due to a mill fire after the town had been deserted.

Cache Description: The Cache is a clear Lock & Lock. Please make sure it is hidden well before you leave!

Notes of Interest: If you notice big sunken holes in the ground, those are where homes and business used to be.

Additional Hints

Ba gur tebhaq, haqre n cvar gerr,
tbbq yhpx jvgu guvf uvag!

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Grass Lake Turn 18 N44° 34.651 W084° 38.294

GC1D3XC OBM - What Could This Thing Tell Us?

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 34.760 W 084° 38.302

UTM: 16T E 687490 N 4938934

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: ★☆☆☆☆

Terrain: ★☆☆☆☆

What is this place? - This is a boulder that is in the middle of one of Michigan's most famous ghost towns. No one knows the long-term history of how long this piece of earth has been here or how it got here. But if it has been here for over a century (who'd move it here anyways?), it might have witnessed Michigan history at its finest. Maybe the kids would play around it after the Pere Cheney schoolhouse would let out for the day. Maybe the town drunk once passed by it and used it as a bed? Maybe it was a decorated by someone's wife, because it was located on their front yard. It may have seen the rise and fall of Crawford County's first county seat. Maybe someone knows how long this rock has been here, but we don't know, so we can only dream!

How'd I find it? - I first spotted this rock after I found out where the town was actually located. It's hard to miss while driving one of Pere Cheney's former streets.

Why is it interesting to me? - It's more than just another rock to me, I think that if this rock could talk, it could tell us a lot of history of how it got there, what it has seen, and who the heck put "HANG" on its back!

Why should it be interesting to you? - If you are a curious person or a history buff, just imagine the possibilities of what used to be here and what nature could tell us. If we listen hard enough, we might just be able to hear its message!

Cache Description - The cache is a small clear lock and lock that can hold trading items, but not large stuff. Please hide this as good as you can, because it will be discovered if it is not!

Additional Hints

Haqre gur ebpx qhu!

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

At this point you could start on to the Mason Tract Loop, or you can follow the next few turns and head back to the starting point. There is one more cache in the Grass Lake Loop, however it is also listed in the Mason Tract Route. Included here are the turns to get back to the starting point and the final cache in this loop. If you wish to start the Mason Tract loop, find the "OBM – What could this thing tell us?" cache in that packet and go on from that page. If not, then continue on here...

Go Back to Grass Lake Turn 18 N44° 34.651 W084° 38.294 and head to...

Grass Lake Turn 19 N44° 34.163 W084° 38.056

Grass Lake Turn 20 N44° 33.292 W084° 38.740

Grass Lake Turn 21 N44° 33.280 W084° 40.219

GCYADX  **June Carter Cache**

Placed by: **jacks bow tie** Placed Date: 9/14/2006

N 44° 31.378 W 084° 38.951

UTM: 16T E 686812 N 4932648

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Short drive down two-track road, not the best road but been through here in the mini van a few times.

Not a difficult cache but in a pretty neat area. Did an adventure race through here a couple years ago and had to head East from here carrying bikes through a thick swampy area. Cache should be easy to find.

Grass Lake Turn 22 N44° 30.679 W084° 39.396

At this point you may turn West and head to the starting point or you may turn East and head to the Kirtland Loop. Turning East will also take you into Roscommon where you can reload on gas, snacks, and water.

Hope you enjoyed the Grass Lake Loop!!

Grass Lake Loop

Event markers & Caches are red dots, green dots are turns



Mason Tract Loop

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N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

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Grass Lake Turn 18 N44° 34.651 W084° 38.294

GC1D3XC OBM - What Could This Thing Tell Us?

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

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Size:  (Small)

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Additional Hints

Haqre gur ebpx qhu!

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A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Mason Tract Turn 1 N44° 35.026 W084° 38.034

Mason Tract Turn 2 N44° 35.035 W084° 37.763

Mason Tract Turn 3 N44° 34.606 W084° 37.749

Mason Tract Turn 4 N44° 34.112 W084° 33.044

Mason Tract Turn 5 N44° 34.508 W084° 32.378

Mason Tract Turn 6 N44° 34.472 W084° 30.325

GC1D4JB OBM Durant's Castle

Placed by: Sleepyweasel & Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 33.827 W 084° 30.302

UTM: 16T E 698128 N 4937522

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

"The Castle" was Cliff and Lea Durant's home in Roscommon that burnt to the ground before it was ever occupied. While painters had taken a trip into town for more paint to finish the grape vines inside "Durant's Castle", their turpentine rags caught fire and the Castle was a complete loss.

The land they owned, approx. 2,600 acres, is now a state nature preserve, The Mason Tract. If you're a fly fisherman, this is the Holy Grail of Trout Fishing. The foundation remained open until the late 80's or early 90's. We used to be able to explore the open foundations and rooms of the basement. Yet today, you will find a picnic area and information posted on the filled in foundation of the Castle. The cache is hidden behind the ruins of what is described as part of the servant's quarters

Also, Cliff was an American racecar driver and the son of William C. Durant, the founder of General Motors. Cliff should also be noted for his contribution to the world of auto racing. Because of his insight and financial backing the Miller Straight Eight Front Wheel Drive Racing Engine was developed by Harry Miller and Tommy Milton. That engine was revolutionary and dominated the international racing scene for approximately the next 50-75 years. Cliff's car, the Junior Eight, is in the Indy 500 museum. Another one of his cars (pleasure) is in the Auburn Cord Museum. Miller was an automotive design genius and also developed motors for airplanes and boats. In addition to his aviation, racing and golf he was also a yachtsman who sailed around the world on his yacht, the Aurora. He was also an excellent musician, violin, among other instruments. Cliff was also the Vice President for Sales and Marketing for Chevrolet of California and later West Coast Distributor and General Manager of Durant Motors of California

Additional Hints

Ybbx sbe gur "cbcyne" pebffvat
oruvaq gb sver cynpr ehvaf

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Head back out to Mason Tract Turn 6 N44° 34.472 W084° 30.325 and on to...

Mason Tract Turn 7 N44° 35.290 W084° 28.967

GC3B8C Downey

Placed by: Dan, Denise and Hannah Placed Date: 2/18/2002

N 44° 35.276 W 084° 28.856

UTM: 16T E 699959 N 4940263

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Along the Ausable river in the Mason Tract at the site of an old homestead

GC1D805 OBM George Mason Retreat- High Banks

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 37.333 W 084° 28.094

UTM: 16T E 700849 N 4944102

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

The Mason Tract was bequeathed to the State of Michigan in 1954 by ardent conservationist George Mason. With very few private in-holdings, this tract encompasses nearly 10 miles of the south branch of the Au Sable River. It was Mason's wish that the land be managed as a "game preserve." With that in mind, the DNR has actively managed the forests on the tract to enhance wildlife habitat and ensure conservation of the south branch of the Au Sable River. Active forest management practices today enhance woody debris in the river, regenerate cedar along the river corridor, regenerate oak and aspen stands for wildlife, and remove old jack pine and oak trees to prevent large- scale insect and disease infestations in the area.

This cache is located along the South Branch of the AuSable River just to the south of it's meeting with the main branch of the river. You will be able to drive to a DNR turn around loop that offers plenty of parking. While most canoeist typically don't make it this far, you run a good chance for meeting a fisherman heading to the river with a fly rod in hand.

Additional Hints

Abg uvtu be ybj onax- V jbhqy org zrqvzh onax

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GC1D3VB MLT - Eldorado

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 35.337 W 084° 24.188 (*corrected since the event*)

UTM: 16T E 705564 N 4940555

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Town History: Previously known as "The Jackpines", the name was changed at the request of the town's citizens. Eldorado was a town that eeked out a meager existance for decades before finally fading into the night. Established in 1886, it was just one of many similar lumbertowns in the area. But, unlike most of those towns, Eldorado actually survived when the lumber ran out. The post office did temporarily close in 1898, but reopened and stayed in business for another half-century. Eldorado had hope when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came into town and made a camp just south of the town. They helped rebuild the forest surrounding the community and added jobs to the depressed village. Years later, they were even awarded a state highway and tried to persuade people to drive on through their town on the way to the Upper Peninsula. But the job opportunities dried up and people started to leave. The post office's closure in 1952 was the final nail in the coffin for this great community. But Eldorado has not completely died out, because those who have stayed behind have kept the spirit of the town alive. An ELDORADO sign keeps drivers informed that on this spot was once a great community that just might make a comeback someday! You never know!

Cache Description: Cache is a clear lock and lock that needs to be hidden well in order to survive! Please hide it back well. It is on state land, so please respect the owners of the nearby private property!

Additional Hints

K Znxf gur Fcbg

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GC1D3RV OBM - Rock Cemetery

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 34.622 W 084° 24.710

UTM: 16T E 705483 N 4939224

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Offbeat Michigan - Rock Cemetery

What is this place? - This seems like a normal cemetery, but it has a giant rock near the back. Hence the name! It was also in a beautiful forest that sadly was cut down for either commercial reasons or for a new Kirtland's Warbler habitat. But as sad as this place looks now (okay, all cemeteries look sad), but in a couple decades this place will be beautiful and teeming with wildlife!

How'd I find it? - When I was exploring nearby Eldorado I found the sign that said "<----- Rock Cemetery" and I decided to explore it. Didn't know why it was called Rock Cemetery until I explored the last unexplored part of the cemetery!

Why is it interesting to me? - I love exploring cemeteries, because they are a gateway to the history of those who came before us. Many interesting individuals have been buried here and by reading their tombstones, they will never be forgotten!

Why should it be interesting to you? - Do you love exploring cemeteries? Do you like go down random roads and find out what's out there? After finding this cache, go down that road and start exploring! You'll never know what you'll find unless you go down that road!

The other stuff - The cache is a clear container that is located just past the cemetery along the trail.

Additional Hints

Jnf guvf n sbhaqngvba?

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GCBCCD Circle of Sidewalks

Placed by: Hannah Placed Date: 12/31/2002

N 44° 33.127 W 084° 24.873

UTM: 16T E 705355 N 4936449

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

A mysterious spot, for sure. A locked cement box, and a circle of sidewalks that lead to nothing. Close to the ghost town of Eldorado, maybe this site was once a thriving community??

Tupperware container moved from the Camp Road Cemetery when that cache was archived. The Cache is not actually located within the circle, but very close by.

Additional Hints

gur ohfu tebjf va gur ehvaf bs na byq ohvyqvaf.

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Mason Tract Turn 8 N44° 30.749 W084° 27.660

At this point you are meeting up with the Kirtland Loop. If you head South from here you can go on to the “OBM – Richardson - Where Are You?” cache and continue on with the Kirtland Loop. You will need to come back on to this loop and finish the caches you missed here, but that can be done from the Roscommon Rails cache. If you choose to do that just go backwards in this booklet from the Roscommon Rails Cache and you will end up at the “OBM – Mason Tract” cache.

To continue on with the Mason Tract Loop, turn North towards the following corner. You will be able to start the Kirtland Loop after you finish this route, you will just end up right back here. Either way you go you will be on this part of the road twice.

Mason Tract Turn 9 N44° 31.475 W084° 27.670

Mason Tract Turn 10 N44° 31.532 W084° 33.026

GC1D4KJ  OBM Mason Tract

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 32.427 W 084° 32.959

UTM: 16T E 694690 N 4934823

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

George W. Mason was an American industrialist. During his career Mason served as the Chairman and CEO of the Kelvinator Corporation (1928-1937), Chairman and CEO of the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation (1937-1954), and Chairman and CEO of American Motors Corporation (1954).

Following his death it was disclosed that Mason, a former President of Ducks Unlimited, had left a gift to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources consisting of 1,500 acres of land with 14 miles of shoreline along the Au Sable River. The gift was contingent that the area be used as a permanent game preserve, that no part shall ever be sold by the state, and that no camping be allowed in the area for 25 years. The State of Michigan has continued to uphold the no camping restriction within the Mason Tract. In accordance with Mr. Mason's wishes, the tract remains free of all development with the exception for a simple log [The Chapel](#) that was constructed on the property by the Mason Family in 1960.

Head back out to Mason Tract Turn 10 N44° 31.532 W084° 33.026

Onward to the next cache...

GC1D4ZW OBM- Pioneer's Cemetery

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 31.493 W 084° 34.969

UTM: 16T E 692079 N 4933015

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

The earliest date I could trace this "Pioneer" cemetery was back to the "1878" date on a replaced head stone. This area is an excellent display of a turn of the previous century's cemetery in a frontier town

Many people, families and veterans fled into the wilderness of the Michigan territory after the Civil War to begin a quite, simple life. Soon came the trappers and traders, quickly followed by surveyors, timber men & railroads. Many of the names in this simply, country cemetery belong to families that still live nearby to this day.

Additional Hints

Whfg bss gur tebbzre nernf ba n fubeg genvy

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GC1CVHT Roscommon Rails

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 5/23/2008

N 44° 29.875 W 084° 35.330

UTM: 16T E 691690 N 4930005

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Very little is left of Roscommon from it's early days. Just 4 blocks NW of this cache stand the old Randal Lumber Yard - whose old storage buildings were once used by the RR company. From pictures, some concrete ruins can still be seen across the road from Randal's but most had been destroyed when they moved the AuSable house there last summer.

A few older buildings still line the tracks, but several phases of remodeling over the decades have left little to see of their original state. Houghton Lake nearly won the County seat but Roscommon had the railroad. Roscommon may be smaller than Houghton Lake, but is still the county seat to this day. You are seeking a large, Mini M&M tube.

You are now in Roscommon, and finished with the Mason Tract Loop. The Kirtland Loop starts at the Roscommon Rails cache, so you can easily continue on to that route if you like. Roscommon has great places to reload on food and gas, so reload and head back out! If you wish to head back to the Starting point or go to the Grass Lake loop, head back to the Starting Point again and you will be headed the right way to go on the Grass Lake Loop. If you choose to do that route next, we recommend you go to the first page of the Grass Lake Loop, don't try to go backwards.

Hope you enjoyed the Mason Tract Loop!!

Mason Tract Loop

Caches are marked in red, turns are marked in blue



Kirtland Loop

GC1D48A OBM- CCC (Camp Higgins Lake)

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 31.023 W 084° 45.512

UTM: 16T E 678140 N 4931746

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Beginning of State Reforestation

A concern over the depletion of Michigan's forest led in 1899 to the creation of a forestry commission. In 1903 the first state forest was set up by the legislature on cut-over, burned-over lands in Roscommon and Crawford counties. The same year also saw the start of organized forest fire protection and the establishment of Higgins Lake Nursery at its present site. thus began the program of reforestation in Michigan

Civilian Conservation Corps

Under the leadership of president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Civilian Conservation Corps camps were established during the early thirties. F.D.R. recruited thousands of unemployed youth and sent them in battle against the destruction and erosion our of natural resources. this action brought together two wasted assets- the young men and the land- an effort that saved both.

From 1933 until 1942, young men from Camp Higgins Lake did most of the work at the nursery. They collected pine cone, then their seeds and raised them to saplings on this site. Workers at other camps planted seedlings from the nursery on state park and forest land across the state.

Additional Hints

Purpx bhg gur sehvgf bs gurve ynobe

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GC1CVHT Roscommon Rails

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 5/23/2008

N 44° 29.875 W 084° 35.330

UTM: 16T E 691690 N 4930005

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

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GC1D4ZW OBM- Pioneer's Cemetery

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 31.493 W 084° 34.969

UTM: 16T E 692079 N 4933015

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

The earliest date I could trace this "Pioneer" cemetery was back to the "1878" date on a replaced head stone. This area is an excellent display of a turn of the previous century's cemetery in a frontier town

Many people, families and veterans fled into the wilderness of the Michigan territory after the Civil War to begin a quite, simple life. Soon came the trappers and traders, quickly followed by surveyors, timber men & railroads. Many of the names in this simply, country cemetery belong to families that still live nearby to this day.

Additional Hints

Whfg bss gur tebbzre nernf ba n fubeg genvy

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Mason Tract Turn 10 N44° 31.532 W084° 33.026

GC1D4KJ OBM Mason Tract

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 32.427 W 084° 32.959

UTM: 16T E 694690 N 4934823

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

George W. Mason was an American industrialist. During his career Mason served as the Chairman and CEO of the Kelvinator Corporation (1928-1937), Chairman and CEO of the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation (1937-1954), and Chairman and CEO of American Motors Corporation (1954).

Following his death it was disclosed that Mason, a former President of Ducks Unlimited, had left a gift to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources consisting of 1,500 acres of land with 14 miles of shoreline along the Au Sable River. The gift was contingent that the area be used as a permanent game preserve, that no part shall ever be sold by the state, and that no camping be allowed in the area for 25 years. The State of Michigan has continued to uphold the no camping restriction within the Mason Tract. In accordance with Mr. Mason's wishes, the tract remains free of all development with the exception for a simple log [The Chapel](#) that was constructed on the property by the Mason Family in 1960.

Head back out to Mason Tract Turn 10 N44° 31.532 W084° 33.026

On to Mason Tract Turn 9 N44° 31.475 W084° 27.670

Mason Tract Turn 8 N44° 30.749 W084° 27.660

GC1D5BG OBM Richardson- Where are you?

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 30.564 W 084° 26.933

UTM: 16T E 702776 N 4931619

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Was Richardson a town, village or logging camp? Other than the sign at the cemetery, who knows? The Richardson Schoolhouse was moved from this area several years ago, but the namesake town is vaguely absent from maps. Some excellent ruins and foundations exist in the area that suggests a good population once existed nearby. This cache is placed well within reach in an easy to access area ;)

Additional Hints

Ybbx nebhaq naq fir uvfgbel orsber lbh
funxr unaqf jvgu gur erfvqrag fdhveery

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Kirtland Turn 1 N44° 30.551 W084° 26.232

GC1D3Q1  **OBM - Richardson**

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 30.455 W 084° 26.397

UTM: 16T E 703493 N 4931439

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

What is this place? - This place is a mystery. It has perplexed me ever since I had been going to Kirtland and driving by this awesome area. It appears to be what's left of a settlement that died out quietly. Off of a beaten dirt road and traveling down a narrow two-track, you will see a few foundations that have long since passed its usefulness. After driving past this, you are treated to an awesome view of a large field and a beautiful pond. In the little research I have done for this, I believe that it was related to the nearby Richardson Cemetery and School (located in the village of Roscommon), so I called this settlement "Richardson". It is named Richardson only by me and I have never discovered the name of this place.

How'd I find it? - I stumbled on this after leaving a KCC class and was VERY lucky to find something as great as this, since I just randomly picked this trail to drive on!

Why is it interesting to me? - Because I have been interested in settings like this for almost six years now! I was unsuccessful in finding out more about this place, and that only makes me want to find out more! Who lived here when it was active? What did this area serve? What it more than just another lumber town that went quietly in the night??? Thos are the questions that make me keep coming here!

Why should it be interesting to you? - Not only do you get to explore interesting foundations and the nearby Richardson Cemetery, but you also have an awesome photo opportunity when you get to the end of the trail! Sit back and try to imagine what was here decades ago and enjoy the nice sounds of nature (not to mention the silence)!

Additional Hints

Va n pyhzc bs znal gerrf!

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Kirtland Turn 2 N44° 30.553 W084° 25.855

GC12M61 Radman Goes To Kirtland!

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 5/2/2007

N 44° 29.805 W 084° 25.898

UTM: 16T E 704192 N 4930256

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

A 2-Stage Multi located in woods not far from Kirtland Community College.

Boy, how time flies! A few years ago, I was attending Mid Michigan Community College in Mount Pleasant. After a few years of taking a few classes here and there, I needed a change of scenery. So, I decided to come up here and attend Kirtland Community College! Everything has been going according to plan and I plan to graduate at the end of this year! To commemorate the moment, I decided to hide an offbeat successor to the cache RADMAN GOES TO COLLEGE. It was hidden in Mount Pleasant a few years ago and was archived last year. This multi only has two stages and should be easy to find. Each stage takes you to a very interesting spot; spots that I specialize in (gives you a hint where they are if you know me well enough). Take a few minutes to enjoy the scenery and try to imagine what this area looked like a long time ago when it was more active. Anyways, everybody should have a fun and easy time with this multi. I hope you enjoy it!

Additional Hints

Ybpngrq ba gur bhgfvqr bs gur pbear!

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Kirtland Turn 3 N44° 29.692 W084° 27.060

Kirtland Turn 4 N44° 27.532 W084° 27.061

Kirtland Turn 5 N44° 26.233 W084° 28.319

GC1CVFT Heart of the AuSable- South Branch

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 5/31/2008

N 44° 26.255 W 084° 28.136

UTM: 16T E 701430 N 4923592

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

This secluded area is meeting point of a few ORV trails and the South Branch river shortly after it leaves Lake St. Helen. This is a 2 stage cache that was placed for the "Are YOU Geocacher Enough" Road Rally event on June 21st-22nd

Additional Hints

1fg Fgvpx nebhaq gur zvqqyr
2aq Ab Gebyyf xabj...

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

GC1D3NP MLT - Geels

Placed by: Radman Forever Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 25.257 W 084° 29.042

UTM: 16T E 700285 N 4921707

Size:  (Small)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Town History: Little is known about this town. It was one of many flagstops on the M.C. Railroad that connected St. Helen, Roscommon, (not to mention Pere Cheney), and Grayling together and brought the lumber from the north to the sawtowns of Midland and Saginaw, which eventually went out of state by boat or train. Town was active during World War I, but without a reason to exist after the lumber dried up, the town quickly dried up. The post office closed down shortly after the Great War ended and the RFD was taken care by Roscommon. All that remains to remember that Geels ever existed is Geels Road, Geels ATV Trail, the town markers on 76, and one lone foundation that is located right by the busy road. Even Geel's sister ghost town of Moore (located just north and on the other side of the railroad) has managed to keep a few people located in its old boundary. All is quiet in an area that was once a busy stop on the railroad.

Cache Description: The container is a clear lock and lock that is big enough to hold medium size items. Cache is located in a part of Geels history, so please respect the area and hide the cache as well as you can! It will keep it around longer!

Additional Hints

Va gur ubyr va gur sbhaqngvba, cvar arrqyrf!

Decryption Key

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

Kirtland Turn 6 N44° 24.585 W084° 31.213

Kirtland Turn 7 N44° 25.800 W084° 32.022

GC1D7Z6  MLT Murray's Hill

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/8/2008

N 44° 25.743 W 084° 32.124

UTM: 16T E 696168 N 4922482

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Murray's Logging camp today is only know as Murray's Hill. The legends go like this: The Murray's camp is a small camp near the railroad town of Geels. While the camp stretched their logging into the winter, they final hit a point in which they had to leave the camp or face starvation and/or freezing to death. This small group never returned the next spring- having either perished or opting to seek their livelihood elsewhere. Now back to the recent past- A professor from the local Kirtland Community College had researched the Murray's Hill area and found were the loggers had buried their saw blades. There were packed in grease , wrapped in grease soaked linen and buried. This keep the expensive blades hidden from people who may have raided the camp looking for anything of value. I am still seeking the information of that research, and hope to have either the corrected story or a closer version of the legend.

GC1CVGP  The Flooding of Robinson Creek

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 5/31/2008

N 44° 27.759 W 084° 33.493

UTM: 16T E 694241 N 4926160

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

While out checking possible routes for the "Are YOU Geocacher Enough" Road Rally, I discovered a view of a lake from a direction I know most people have never seen before. Take a few minutes to check out the view while find this road side cache. Please be cautious about parking on the curve.

Kirtland Turn 8 N44° 27.984 W084° 34.347

GC1D5AX OBM-Michigan's Forest Fire Experiment Station

Placed by: Sleepyweasel Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 27.953 W 084° 35.018

UTM: 16T E 692208 N 4926459

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

Michigan's Forest Fire Experiment Station

Founded in 1929 the Forest Fire Experiment Station (FFES) is a research and development center that studies wildfire ecology and suppression tactics and develops specialized equipment to suppress them. For the last 79 years the FFES has followed its mandate and has become a nationally recognized center for wildfire suppression equipment development. FFES functions include research and design, prototype manufacturing, and publication of information related to the products developed. The two main types of suppression equipment developed by FFES and used throughout the state are the fire line plows and the various sizes of engines with off-road capability.

We have gotten special permission to hide this cache, PLEASE do not walk around the buildings for this cache or we will have to pull it ;) THANKS!

GC1D4Z8 OBM- Bo's Family Farm

Placed by: Sleepyweasel73 Placed Date: 6/7/2008

N 44° 27.938 W 084° 36.577

UTM: 16T E 690142 N 4926370

Size:  (Regular)

Difficulty: 

Terrain: 

During the Great Depression, the state government took possession of large amounts of land due to unpaid taxes. Over the years, the building left have either fallen to time or had been taken apart by people attempting to salvage building materials.

While the pictures (that aren't printed here) are not of the ruins at this cache, you will see an excellent example of the ruins left from homes and building from back when families were trying to carve a living from soil in this area.

You have now finished the Kirtland Loop. You should head back towards the Roscommon Rails Cache and then you can easily get back to the Starting Point from there. If you would like to do the Mason Tract Loop from here, go to the corner below and go on from there.

Grass Lake Turn 22 N44° 30.679 W084° 39.396

If you would like to go on to the Grass Lake Loop, go back to the Starting Point and continue on from there.

Hope you enjoyed the Kirtland Loop!!

Kirtland Loop

Caches are marked in red, turns in purple

