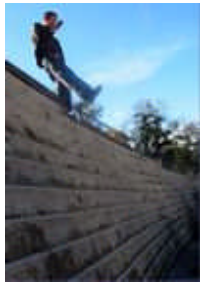


FALL NEWSLETTER 2007



ANNOUNCING WINNERS OF GPS CENTRAL'S SUMMER PHOTO & STORY CONTEST 2007!



1st Prize: "Nose in GPS" by Thomas Eldridge

Look out dog! Take your nose out of your GPS long enough to see where you are going...

The staffers at GPS Central are always amused by the you-wouldn't believe-how-many stories on news feeds, like a lady in the UK who drove her Bentley into a river because her GPS said that's where the road would be.

Prize: eTrex Vista HCx



2nd Prize: "Papa Newfie" by Steve Billard

After a few years in Calgary the itch to go back home was overwhelming. Home for me is Newfoundland....

Prize: eTrex Venture HC



3rd Prize: "Mt Chester" by Graham Latonas

[The GPS] also keeps us honest, ensuring we don't embellish our stories of pain and suffering with an unrealistic account of elevation gain...

Prize: eTrex H

Honorable Mentions:



"Red Rock Pass" (Idaho/Montana), Motorcycling the Continental Divide

We traveled almost 9000 km total, to Mexico and back. Very few of the roads we rode were paved, and some were mere trails in the wilderness. We climbed 12,000 foot mountains, crossed vast deserts, and crawled through canyons...



"Bernie Was Here" (NS)

(No story submitted)



Staff: Karen Wakeboarding on Ghost Lake (AB)

I used my friend's Garmin nuvi 250 to drive from Calgary to Ghost Lake and used my 60CSx on the wake board boat to save the track of where we'd been on the lake.

GPS SIGHTINGS: pop & celebrity, politics & natural sciences, life etc.

Aug 31-Sept 2

Opening weekend for "GPS The Movie" in Seattle. The Hunt is On. Directed by Eric Colley. Producer Hallie Shepherd. "College friends embark on a GPS treasure hunt [geocaching]. Instead of finding buried treasure ..."

Sept 6

New York City taxi strike continues as drivers protest new GPS monitors the city plans to install in 13,187 taxis.

Oct 5

Moonlight's vampire detective on CBS places a magnetic GPS tracker on a car (to catch a bad guy).

Oct 6

GPS The Movie wins first prize at the Tacoma Film Festival. Check screenings.

Oct 11

Congo's Mbendjele Yaka pygmies use handheld GPS to map the tombs of their ancestors, hunting grounds, sacred areas, water holes, areas of medicinal plants. The nomadic forest dwellers are quickly mapping large areas to protect their home from commercial international logging.

Oct 13

CBC GO which airs Saturday 10AM on Radio One sets a group of its guests forth into Saskatoon for an on-air live geocache.

Oct 17

Parks Canada temporarily bans geocaching in the national parks system.

Visit <http://www.gpscentral> to read newsletters in the archive.

CONTEST STORY WINNERS!

1st Prize, Thomas Eldrige: Here we see the elusive geocacher in his natural habitat. Off he goes, let's follow. Here comes a muggle! Notice the geocacher's special defense mechanism... *Muggle deception!* Crickey! That muggle was deceived and moves on. Look out *dag!* Take your nose out of your GPS long enough to see where you are going! ... *He's unstoppable!* Crickey! The GPS estimates he is very close! The search begins. He is going to *avago* at a First To Find, and is very territorial. If he suspects you are looking for the same thing he is he may inject you with deadly venom... O.K I lied about the venom part, but his teeth sure look sharp! Blimey! This *bloke* has found it! Watch as he uses his highly evolved fingers to pry open the Tupperware. Crickey! He is first to find!!

2nd Prize, Steve Billard: After a few years in Calgary the itch to go back home was overwhelming. Home for me is Newfoundland. There I went fishing with my Dad who has a Lowrance H20 loaded with Navionics charts for our area. Here are some pics from our multiple fishing trips. Our boat is 21ft and outfitted with a VHF radio and GPS. Its not very big but it gets the job done. We only fish for our own consumption. Without the GPS the obstructions in the fog could have been a real hassell. With out the GPS we could of hit the under water rocks surrounding the exposed rock in the picture. Thank goodness I hate swimming in cold water. Here is my dad holding one of the many fish we pulled from the Atlantic ocean. He showed me how he uses the Lowrance H20 and Navionics charts to find good fishing locations by watching the shoals on the the GPS. We easily pulled our daily limit in a few hours.

3rd Prize, Graham Latonas: Our hand-held GPS has become a staple on our excursions into the Rockies. With up-loaded maps it provides invaluable support for route-finding. In addition, the nice "extras" such as an altimeter let us know when we are getting close to our objective. It also keeps us honest, ensuring we don't embellish our stories of pain and suffering with an unrealistic account of elevation gain. It also helps us keep track of our photo collection (great for us old-timers who don't always remember all the details). Here's a photo of my son Jeffrey on the peak of Mount Chester checking the location and elevation against that provided in the guide-book!

Honorable Mention, Chris Regier: On August 1st 2007 two friends and I left Calgary to ride our motorcycles down the Continental Divide Route, a mountain bike backroads route from Roosville Montana to Antelope Wells New Mexico. To guide me I had my Garmin GPSs, an Etrex Vista Cx and a Foretrex 101. The Vista contained the routes and provided moving map navigation, and my Foretrex gave me constant information on elevation, distance traveled, and speed. Both units also recorded tracks on the trip. We traveled almost 9000 km total, to Mexico and back. Very few of the roads we rode were paved, and some were mere trails in the wilderness. We climbed 12,000 foot mountains, crossed vast deserts, and crawled through canyons. The Vista guided us flawlessly for the full 23-day trip. Thanks to the GPS units, Mapsource, and a little planning, navigation on little-traveled routes was not only possible, but also nearly perfect!

Staff, Karen: This is my first time wakeboarding. I went to Ghost Lake, Alberta about 10 mins west of Cochrane on Saturday. I used my friend's Garmin nuvi 250 to drive from Calgary to Ghost Lake and used my 60CSx on the wake board boat to save the track so we could see *where we were on the lake*. It was very cool to have a GPS to find the nearest gas station and McDonald's Restaurant before we left Calgary in the morning too.

WHAT GPS DO YOU LIKE? STAFF PICKS



My personal choice of GPS is and almost always has been the **Nuvi 350**. Even though I have Bluetooth on my cell phone, I do not find any form of talking on the phone while driving safe, whether hands free or with the handset. The MP3 feature has to be my favourite, since driving in rush hour can be tedious. I can load up all my own music on an SD card, turn up the volume. The recalculation option is very beneficial when driving in unknown cities, if you happen to miss your turn the unit will automatically reroute you to the next turn and get you back on track. – Roxie



Any one of the units in the Garmin **nuvi series** has become my favourite! User friendly, even my mom can use it. They're a sleek design, and if you want to do some city exploring on foot, you can just tuck it in your pocket and go. They come with a lot of nifty features, such as Points of Interest that come in especially handy when you're in a new city and have no idea what's around you to eat, shop or see. – Julia



The **Forerunner 305** is a great addition for my bike and outdoor hobbies. I chose it instead of the **Edge** because I can wear it on my wrist for hiking, *and* mount it on the handle bars of my bike for riding. The only drawback is that it does not have a barometric altimeter. My favorite part is the software that manages my data: it can plot heart rate vs. distance vs. speed vs. elevation change, etc. I can use any Garmin map in the background, which is great because I am able to pick the hardest bike route so I get into shape quicker. – Jesse

GPS COMMUNITY: NEW DONATIONS

Habitat for Humanity: The Thomas Family receives a Garmin **GPSMAP 478** to help with road navigation on the journey from Calgary AB Canada to Santiago Chile. Justin, Kim and family are working on and advocating for agency projects along the way. *We thank you again for ...helping them stay on track with a GPS!* - Wayne deJong, VP Strategic and International Partnerships, Waterloo ON

Alberta GeocoinFest: *Thanks again for the prizes, they went over very well and were appreciated.* - David Papp, Edmonton AB

Halifax Regional Search and Rescue: *The continued support of local organizations such as yours has permitted Eco-Endurance Challenge 2007 to once again be a truly successful event...* - Kelvin King and Chris Richards, Halifax NS