






GPS Receivers & Geocaching Details


Virginia Geospatial Extension Program

GPS Receivers

	eTrex (current)	eTrex H	eTrex Venture HC	eTrex Legend HCx	eTrex Vista HCx
High sensitivity chip	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geocaching friendly	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Area Calculation	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Color Screen	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interface (USB/Serial)	Serial	Serial	USB	USB	USB
Price (amazon.com)	N/A	\$95	\$131	\$190	\$212
					

What does “Geocaching friendly” mean?

For Garmin units:

- GPS receiver has a geocache menu
- Shows downloaded geocaches 
 - Many show if they have been found or not
- Can select “Go To” function which gives navigational directions towards geocaches
- Will also show any other information downloaded with the geocache in comment field

Introduction to Geocaching

- Geocaching is a high-tech entertaining adventure game for GPS users
- The idea is to “hunt” for hidden containers (geocaches) that have been placed in the landscape (virtual orienteering)
- Pick a prize from the geocache and leave a prize...
- Geocaching is enjoyed by people of all ages, with a strong sense of community and support for the environment

www.geocaching.com

Geocaching

- Geocache examples



Example of contents

Geocaching

- Create account on www.geocaching.com
- Search for geocaches
- Download geocaches to your GPS unit
- “Hunt” your geocache
- Sign logbook in cache
- Take an item, leave an item
- Return cache to exact position & condition in which it was found
- Write about your experience on www.geocaching.com

Trackable Items

- Items that have a tracking number & can be followed via www.geocache.com
- Geocoins
 - Special coin created by individuals/groups as a signature item/calling card
 - Has unique tracking ID
- Travel Bugs
 - A trackable tag that is attached to an item
 - Standard design

Geocoins & Travel Bugs



Information & Tips for Creating a New Geocache

- <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-and-Hide-a-Geocache>
- Are geocaches allowed in your proposed location?
 - If private property get permission from the land owner
 - Some park systems require permits, so check with park management to make sure a permit isn't required, or obtain one if it is.
- Stock cache
 - A few inexpensive & useful items
 - Dollar stores are popular places to get items
 - If its trash throw it out, not in a cache
- Before hiding your cache, step back and consider what a non-geocacher might think if one were to see a stranger wandering that area with a GPS.

Any Questions?

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