

WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER

Written by Ken Palmer

2005

This summer has been the best. The days have been hot with enough wind to sail by. We haven't been rained out as in previous years, and every day is a Saturday. Sure, it's easy for me to say, I'm retired. Maybe retirement is the frosting on the cake. I know that it seems as if I am rubbing it in, but I just couldn't resist.

Can you ever get too much sailing? After taking two trips to Toronto and one to Sodus Bay, I have to say that a little down time doesn't hurt. I originally thought that when I retired, I would spend every day on the boat. If not sailing, I would be doing all of the boat projects that I had been putting off for lack of time. The truth is, sailing doesn't occupy 100% of my time. There are home projects to start and to finish, lawn to cut, weeds to pull, and cars to wash. I just have to spend my time wisely, mixing the work with the play.

Summer is not the season to walk/run on my treadmill. I go Geocaching to replace that exercise. Geocaching has become somewhat of an obsession with me. I am an early riser, so my routine has been to get out and find a site before others are out and about. It's fun exploring the parks and woods nearby. What isn't too much fun is getting lost in Durand Eastman Park.



Yep, that happened to me. Durand Eastman has an "undeveloped" area that has a number of trails, but also a number of impassable valleys. After finding a Geocache there, I thought I would be smart and find another. To make a long

story short, I couldn't get back to my car from where I was. I ended up exiting the park near Lake Ontario. Not so bad, however my car was parked on the southern edge of the park a few miles away, as the crow flies. I called Ruth for a ride to my car and had to tell her the awful truth: I had gotten lost with a GPS and compass in my hand. How embarrassing for somebody that has navigated all the way across Lake Ontario to Toronto.



September will bring another trip across the lake. This time we head east, then north, to the Thousand Islands. This will be uncharted territory for Ruth and I, so we will be traveling with others. There are now three other sailboats planning to take this trip, and they all have the navigating experience that I lack for this trip.

Unfortunately, we will return at the end of the Lake Ontario boating season. Time to put away our toys and think about the (dare I say it?) snow. With the cost of fuel increasing faster than I can burn a hotdog on the grill, can I really afford to stay in Rochester this winter? Perhaps we can plan a trip to the south, not only to keep us warm, but to keep the tan that I have been working on all summer. Plans are in the works to explore the Great Lakes next year. If all works out, we will be off to Lake Erie and beyond after the 2006 Hunter Rendezvous in Port Credit.

By the way, if anybody is interested in filling up their spare time with Geocaching, take a look at their website at <http://www.geocaching.com>.



Burned out car down the gorge of the Genesee River