

# Finding the plastic box?

or was that a tube? Or a film container? What was the latitude?

I decided to go on a treasure hunt while my daughter was in play rehearsals. I was thinking it would be a good way to get a little exercise and play with my new GPS.

So I loaded in a bunch of geocache locations on my GPS and went to look for them. I went to the first location that I remembered finding, turned on my GPS to start looking for them. Nope, they were not in the list. I didn't get those downloaded. That should be ok, I think I wrote down the longitude and latitude on a piece of paper. Too bad I didn't bring it with me. Hmmm, this isn't going very well.

So, I decided to let my GPS guide me to one I did have on the machine. I got close, I'm sure I got very close. The GPS said I was within 20 feet as I stepped out of my truck. Ok, so this one wasn't going to be the exercise I thought it was going to be. I got out to check it out, and I was suddenly (moving physically a mere 2 feet) 50 feet away from my desired location. Step away from the truck and overhead wires, they may be interfering with my GPS signals. Yes, two more feet and I was about 18 feet away. But which way? My GPS said to the right. North, south, east or west would have been good. I looked around and saw two likely locations for someone to hide something. I circled both locations and was constantly told the location was to the right...

Something just wasn't adding up. So I tried to look at the longitude and latitude recorded for the object and compare that to the longitude and latitude given by my little GPS. Oops, the downloaded file did not print that information on my GPS screen. Maybe I downloaded it incorrectly. It just gave me the identifying number. No descriptions, nothing. So, I guess

couldn't match it by that either.

I changed my 'car' to be an arrow and circled around the two locations again. Constantly keeping my 'arrow' pointed in the directions of the objects. I think I narrowed it down to one of the objects, and I was able to pace a 15 – 20 foot circle around it. Yes, the GPS kept telling me I was 15 to 20 feet away. I moved closer and repeated the process. There were times I was 100 feet away, when 5 feet farther out I was only 15 feet away. Something was definitely interfering with the GPS. I guess I got my exercise circling one area in searching for something that I didn't have a clue as to what it looked like. I don't think I found it.

Oh well, back to the drawing board. I will arm myself with better information and try again someday. I'm also wondering if the GPS units designed for walking would give more information from the downloaded files. I guess I will need to look into that.