

HAM-CACHING

Congratulations, you've found it! Intentionally or not!

What is this hidden container sitting here for? What the heck is this thing doing here with all these things in it?

It is part of an emergency communications based special event held twice annually by Radio Amateurs (a.k.a. Hams) within South Africa called. This section of the event has been dubbed Ham-Caching and is based on the popular sport of Geocaching.

The game basically involves a Ham, utilising a GPS, hiding "treasure" (this container and its contents), and publishing the exact coordinates so other Hams can come on a "treasure hunt" to find it and then communicate via wireless radio that they have found it. The basic rules are: you must write about your visit in the logbook and contact the CTARC via wireless radio communications and transmit a basic message. Hopefully, the person that hid this container found a good spot that is not easily found by uninterested parties. Sometimes, a good spot turns out to be a bad spot, though.

IF YOU FOUND THIS CONTAINER BY ACCIDENT:

Great! We ask only that you:

- Please do not move or vandalize the container. The real treasure is just finding the container and sharing your thoughts with everyone else who finds it.
- If possible, let us know that you found it, by visiting the **www.ctarc.org.za**.

As previously mentioned, this special even cache hide is based on the more popular sport of Geocaching. Geocaching is open to everyone with a GPS and a sense of adventure. There are similar sites all over the world. The organization has its home on the Internet. Visit the website if you want to learn more, or have any comments: **<http://www.geocaching.com>**

If this container needs to be removed for any reason, please let us know. We apologize, and will be happy to move it.

RULES

The following are the basic rules for Ham-Caching. Please follow these rules in order to log your find.

1. Participants can enter as individuals or as teams, teams which include non-hams get a multiplier.
2. Points are awarded for finding the cache in accordance with the points table at the end of these rules.
3. The team or individual who find the cache are to log their visit by writing a brief note and leaving their names and call-signs in the logbook.
4. The participants are expected to make radio contacts whilst at the cache site.
5. A maximum number of contacts can be made per cache. This figure can be found on the front page of the logbook and based on the difficulty of the cache find.
6. Radio contact can be made on any band.
7. Logs must consist of time, band, callsign/name contacted.

SCORING

The scoring is granted as follows:

1. Multiplier for making contact with special event station:

ZS1CT special event station	5
Other special event station	2
Other station	1

Table 1

2. Contact method multipliers:

UHF	1
VHF	2
HF	3
PMR	4

Table 2

3. The multiplier allocated for finding this cache can be found in the following table:

Cache 1	2
Cache 2	5
Cache 3	5
Cache 4	10
Cache 5	10

Table 3

4. Number of contacts multipliers:

1-5	1
6-10	2
11-15	3
15+	4

Table 4

5. Multiplier for teams types:

Individual Ham	1
Team of only Hams	2
Team containing non-Ham	4

Table 5

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR SCORE

The following calculation will help you work out your overall score for each cache:

Σ [Station type multiplier (Table 1) X Contact method multiplier (Table 2)] X Cache score multiplier (Table 3) X Team type multiplier (Table 4)

WHAT NOW?

Send your score sheet containing your logged contacts to ctarc@ctarc.org.za and you stand a chance to win one or more of the following:

- A “Winner’s certificate” will be bestowed on the winner or winning team of the Ham-Caching contest.
- A “Found All” certificate will be issued to all teams or individuals that find all of the caches.
- A “Participants” certificate will be issued to all individuals who take part in the Ham-Caching contest.