

GSAK (Geocaching Swiss Army Knife)



GEOCACHING SOFTWARE ADVANCED KLASS

GSAK - 201

by

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Table of Contents

About this Document	iii
Class Materials.....	iv
1.0 Finding and Installing Macros.....	1
Objective 1.0a: Install the AddTextToUserLog.gsk macro and the SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk macros	1
2.0 Settings	2
Objective 2.0a: Create load settings to load a gpx file & update county, state and elevation .	2
3.0 Backup and Restore	4
3.1 Backing Up Your Data	4
3.1.1 Backup Locations	4
A. Flash Drive	4
B. Computer	4
C. The Cloud	4
3.1.2 Backup Methods.....	4
A. Automatic Backup.....	5
Objective 3.1a: Set location for automatic backups.....	6
B. Manual Backup	6
Objective 3.1b: Manually backup specific databases to a flash drive	6
Objective 3.1c: Manually backup specific databases to your computer	7
Objective 3.1d: Manually backup your entire GSAK installation.....	7
3.2 Restoring Your Data	7
Objective 3.2a: Restore databases only in a manual backup from a flash drive.....	7
Objective 3.2b: Restore backup of entire GSAK installation onto new or rebuilt computer	8
Objective 3.2c: Restore an automatic backup after messing up a database	9
4.0 Filtering.....	11
Objective 4.0a: Find all the caches that are Difficulty 2 or higher, Terrain 3 or higher and placed before 10/20/2012 that are type Multi and located in Montana. Then save the filter for later use	11
5.0 Global Replace	14
Objective 5.0a: Create a file for a friend with caches that you have found but caches your friend still needs to find.....	14
Objective 5.0b: Change the Found by Me Date in all the caches to December 20, 2015	16

6.0 Publishing Logs with GSAK.....	17
6.1 Publish logs.....	17
Objective 6.3a: Publish found it logs for caches in a filter with a simple template	18
Objective 6.3b: Create a template that will say: “Thank you <OwnerName> for placing this cache. It was find number <X> out of <Y> today.” but automatically fill in the owner name and find numbers so that it doesn’t have to be done manually	19
Objective 6.3c: Publish logs using the template above. Caches to publish will be retrieved from a filter you have set with the caches to be logged	20
Objective 6.3d: Create a template that will apply the text you will enter into the Log section of each cache into your published log.....	21
Objective 6.3e: Manually add our log text to the Log section for the caches in our filter.....	22
Objective 6.3f: Publish logs using our template and apply a favorite point to one of our finds using the template above. Caches to publish will be retrieved from a filter you have set with the caches to be logged.....	23
7.0 Corrected Coordinates	24
Objective 7.0a: Enter corrected coordinates.....	24
Objective 7.0b: Delete corrected coordinates in GSAK.....	25
Objective 7.0c: Get corrected coordinates entered on cache page on Geocaching.com into GSAK	26
8.0 Adding Buttons to the Toolbar	27
8.1 Adding Predefined Buttons to the Toolbar	27
Objective 8.1a: Add the Global Replace button to your toolbar.....	27
8.2 Adding Macro Buttons to the Toolbar	28
Objective 8.2a: Configure and add a button to the toolbar that will run the AddTextToUserLog.gsk macro	28
8.3 Removing Buttons from the Toolbar	30
Objective 8.3a: Remove the Global Replace button from the toolbar.....	30

About this Document

This document was created for the GSAK 201 Event sponsored by SLAGA (<https://coord.info/GC781AB>) event.

In this class, we will not spend time going over the GSAK 101 material. **If you need a refresher in 101, contact Major134; and, he will send you a digital copy of the syllabus for that class.** There is enough 201 material to cover and we will not have time to cover subjects from the 101 class. It will be assumed that you have GSAK already installed. You **MUST** have the latest version of GSAK installed. To make sure you are on the most current version, please go to Tools>Options, Advanced tab and make sure you have the "Check for patches" box checked. If you are on the most current version it will be at least 8.7.1.28. Version 8.7.0.0 is NOT current and many bugs have been fixed as well as features added since that version was released, some of which may affect topics covered in this class.

In the class we will first give an explanation of the subject matter and follow it with challenges that a user may face and offer solutions detailing how to overcome the challenges. Questions during class are welcome and encouraged.

In this document you will see words or phrases that are in bold text. Those generally will refer to window titles, labels on windows, etc... Basically something that needs to stand out or be found on the screen will be bold.

You will also see the following icons that are used to make it easy to find different items in the document:



This icon refers to additional information. It will be used to explain a point that may be confusing as you walk through the steps of an objective.



This icon also refers to additional information but is a bit more important. Generally these are warnings that could be "gotchas" if you are new to the process.



This icon will signify the beginning of an objective.

What you should bring to class:

1. A laptop with the most current version of GSAK already installed (8.7.1.28 as of this writing).
2. Pen and paper for notes.
3. A flash drive (not required but might be helpful).
4. GSAK201.gpx (included with this material) loaded into a GSAK database called GSAK201.
5. Questions!

Class Materials

In addition to this syllabus, several files should be included in the zip file for the class. If you don't have these files please let us know and we will get them to you.

GSAK201.gpx

AddTextToUserLog.gsk

SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk

1.0 Finding and Installing Macros

Macros are a very powerful tool to use with GSAK. They can, and will, extend its already vast capabilities. However, finding and using them is sometimes a challenge. Some of them are written by people who rarely put them out on the master list for all to find but there are dozens of them on the Master Macro Index for use by anyone. It is located here: <http://gsak.net/board/MacroIndex.php>

You are allowed to download, install and use any of the macros on that list free of charge. Most of the time the usage instructions are on the macro page. If you have any questions you can post it in the macro support page and the author of the macro should see it and hopefully be able to answer your question.

For this class, we will use the two macros included with the class material.



Objective 1.0a: Install the AddTextToUserLog.gsk macro and the SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk macros

1. Copy the **AddTextToUserLog.gsk** and **SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk** to your desktop.
2. Minimize all programs until you can see your desktop.
3. Double click on the **AddTextToUserLog.gsk** macro. GSAK will open and a screen will appear asking whether you want to **Install the macro**, **Run the macro now** or **Open in macro editor**.



4. Make sure **Install the macro** is chosen.
5. Click the **Go** button. GSAK will copy the macro to your macros folder and install it for you.
6. Minimize again to show your desktop.
7. Double click on the **SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk** macro. GSAK will open the same screen as it did on the previous macro.
8. Make sure **Install the macro** is chosen.
9. Click the **Go** button. GSAK will copy the macro to your macros folder and install it for you.

2.0 Settings

Throughout GSAK you will see many windows that have a **Settings** section along with **Save** and **Delete** buttons. It will usually look similar to the screenshot below.

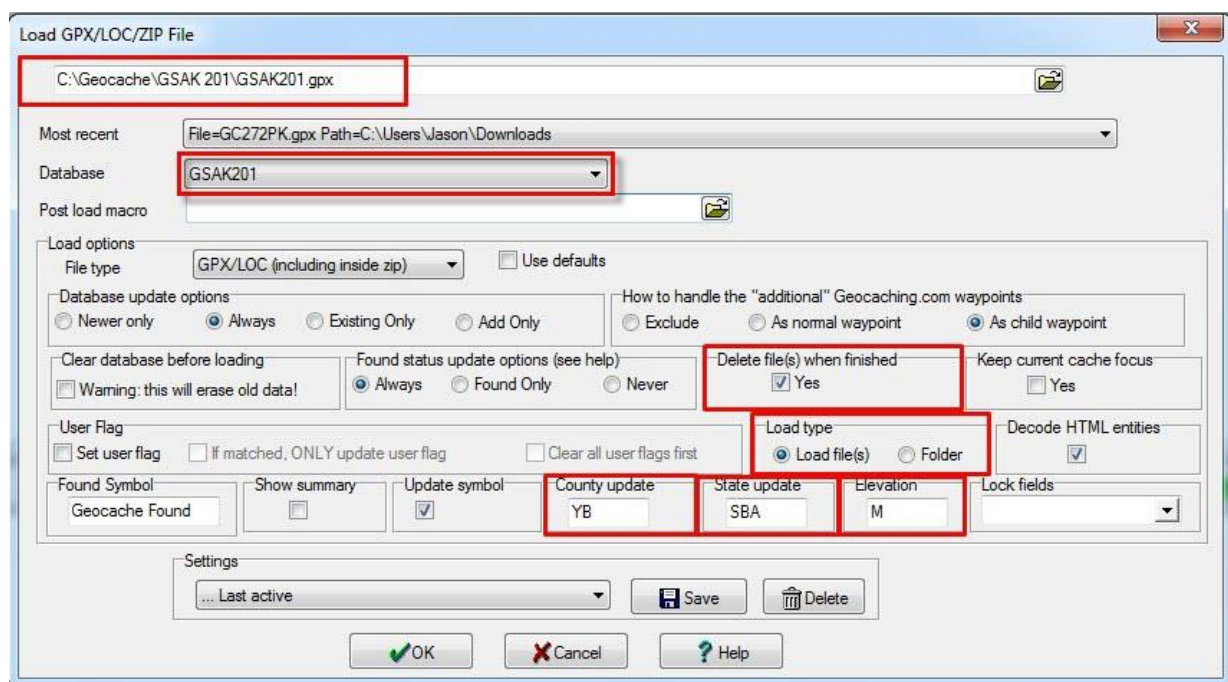



Any time you see this section you can choose all of the settings you want on that particular window and then save them by clicking the **Save** button. This will allow you to come back at a later date and choose those settings from the dropdown and not have to recreate them.



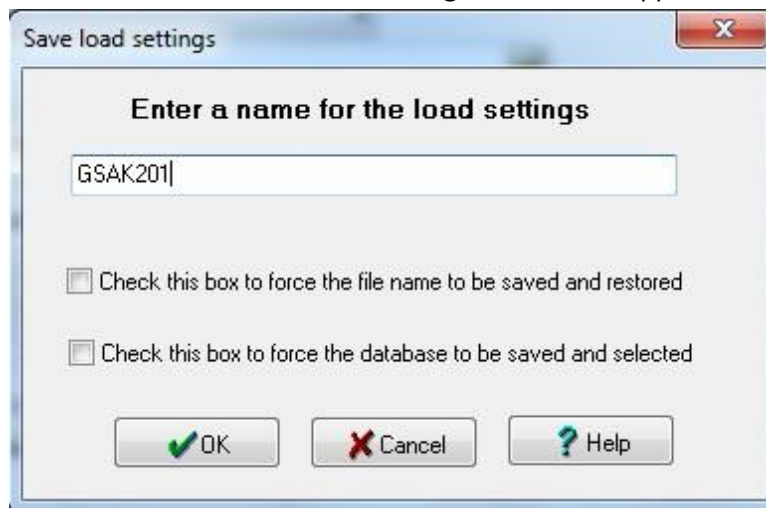
Objective 2.0a: Create load settings to load a gpx file & update county, state and elevation

In this objective, we will create load settings that will load the GSAK201.gpx file included with this class material and tell GSAK to update the County, State and Elevation columns during import.



1. Click the **File** menu
2. Click the **Load GPX/LOC/ZIP...** menu
(Alternatively, you can click the open folder  on the toolbar and that will be the same as steps 1 and 2).

3. Choose the GSAK201 file from wherever you currently have it stored. Mine is located at "C:\Geocache\GSAK 201\GSAK201.gpx".
4. Choose a database that will be used for these settings. Mine is set to "GSAK201".
5. If **Use defaults** is checked then uncheck it.
6. In the **Delete file(s) when finished** section choose **No**. (Mine is set to Yes. Ignore me.)
7. In the **Load Type** section select **Load file(s)** if it's not already selected.
8. In the **County update** section, enter **YB**. The "Y" will tell GSAK to update the county and the "B" tells GSAK to only update county if it's blank. Without the "B" GSAK will update all of the caches being imported which will make the import take longer, usually unnecessarily.
9. In the **State update** section, enter **SBA**. The "S" tells GSAK to update the state field. The "B" tells GSAK to only update the State if it's blank. The "A" tells GSAK to use the state abbreviation. If you do not want the states abbreviated, then omit the "A" and just enter "SB".
10. In the **Elevation** section, enter an **M**. This tells GSAK to update the elevation of the cache. It will automatically update the elevation for caches that GSAK hasn't already previously updated.
11. Click the **Save** button. The **Save Load Settings** window will appear.



12. Enter a name for your settings. Make sure it's a name that makes sense to you so that you will know what it is when you need them again in the future.
13. Uncheck the **Check this box to force the file name to be saved and restored** box. This setting tells GSAK to always use the folder and filename that we entered in Step 3 rather than whatever folder and file were used the last time you imported a file.
14. Uncheck the **Check this box to force the database to be saved and selected** box. This will tell GSAK to always use the database you selected in Step 4 rather than whatever database might be currently opened.
15. Click the **OK** button to save the settings. If you are saving settings and you are using the same name as previously saved settings, GSAK will ask you to verify that you want to save.
16. Click the **OK** button on the Load GPX window to load the file into your current database.

3.0 Backup and Restore

GSAK stores different data in various places. For example, it stores the cache data in a sqlite database in one place while storing macros, backups and application data in other places. It is easy to find where GSAK is storing this data and, in some cases, you can dictate where you want it stored.

3.1 Backing Up Your Data

The first decision to make when setting up your backup strategy is where you are going to put the backed-up data. There are generally three locations from which you can choose. You are not necessarily limited to just one of the three.

3.1.1 Backup Locations

A. Flash Drive

Insert the media in a USB port and determine where it is, d:\, f:\, etc. Most computers will open a window that will tell you which drive letter has been assigned to the flash drive after you plug it into the computer.

B. Computer

Create a subfolder in a folder on your computer. I have a separate parent folder named Geocache and I have GSAK installed in a subfolder called "GSAK Jason" so my Backup storage folder on my computer is located at C:\Geocache\GSAK Jason\Backup.

C. The Cloud


There are many ways to save your backups to the cloud. For whichever way you choose, you will need to find out how it works and set your backups accordingly. Most commonly, you can tell your cloud service to backup any folder on your computer automatically without further input from you. It will know when a new file is created, or an old file altered, and then back it up for you.

3.1.2 Backup Methods

The next decision you need to make is what method(s) you will use for your backup strategy. Your choices are automatic and manual. Again, you can use either or both methods. Generally, automatic backups are sufficient for most people who only use one computer. However, there may be occasions that you may want to make a manual backup.

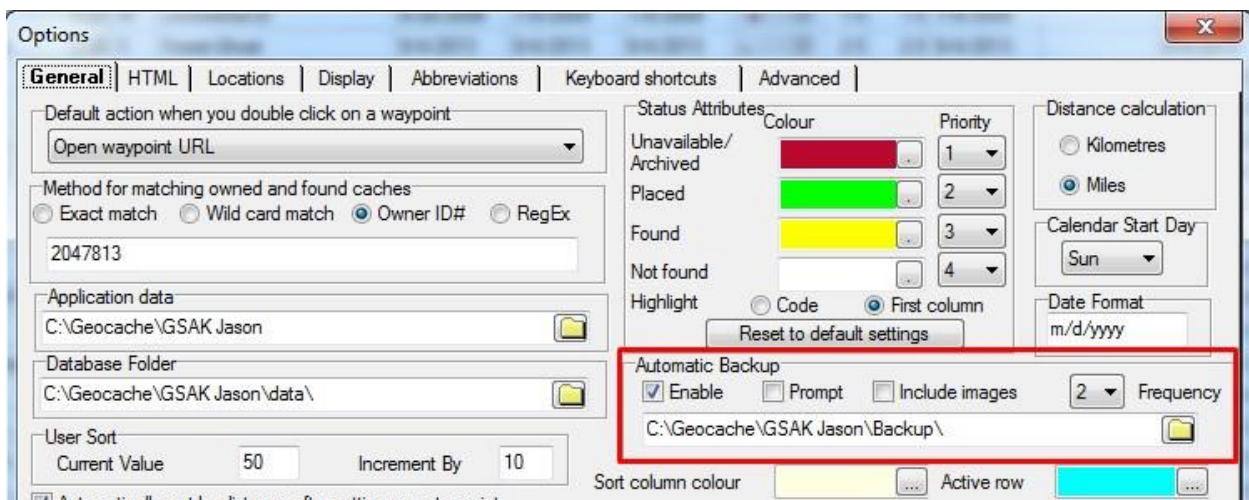
A. Automatic Backup

Telling GSAK to automatically backup your data is a must. Sometimes, if you have many databases, it can seem to take a bit of time to shut down when you close GSAK, but it is worth the time to allow GSAK to make the backups.

 GSAK only backs up your data if something changes. So, if you only go into GSAK to look at something but do not change any values, when you exit GSAK will not backup the data automatically.

To get to the window in the screenshot below, click the **Tools > Options** menu. You can see the location on the computer where the backups will be stored. Also in the **Automatic Backup** section are:

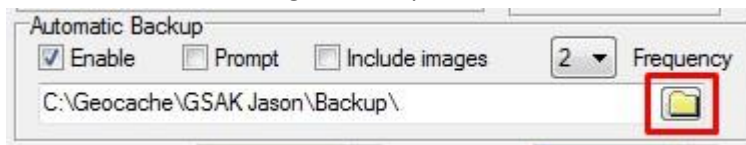
1. *Enable* - This tells GSAK whether to perform the backup when you exit GSAK.
Recommended setting: Checked
2. *Prompt* - This tells GSAK to confirm that you want to perform the backup.
Recommended Setting: Unchecked
3. *Include Images* - This tells GSAK whether to backup images that you have included in your logs.
Recommended Setting: If you have images then checked
4. *Frequency* - This tells GSAK how often to back up your databases. If you are in and out of GSAK many times in a day, you may want to have the frequency set to a number higher than one. However, if you normally get into GSAK only once or twice a day then the recommended setting here is 1.





Objective 3.1a: Set location for automatic backups

1. Click the **Tools** menu.
2. Click **Options** in the menu that appears.
3. If not already selected, click the **General** tab.
4. Click the **Browse** button to the right of the path shown in the **Automatic Backup** section.



5. A window with the folders on your computer will appear. Browse to the location that you want the backups to be saved.
6. Click the **OK** button. Your automatic backup location is now set.

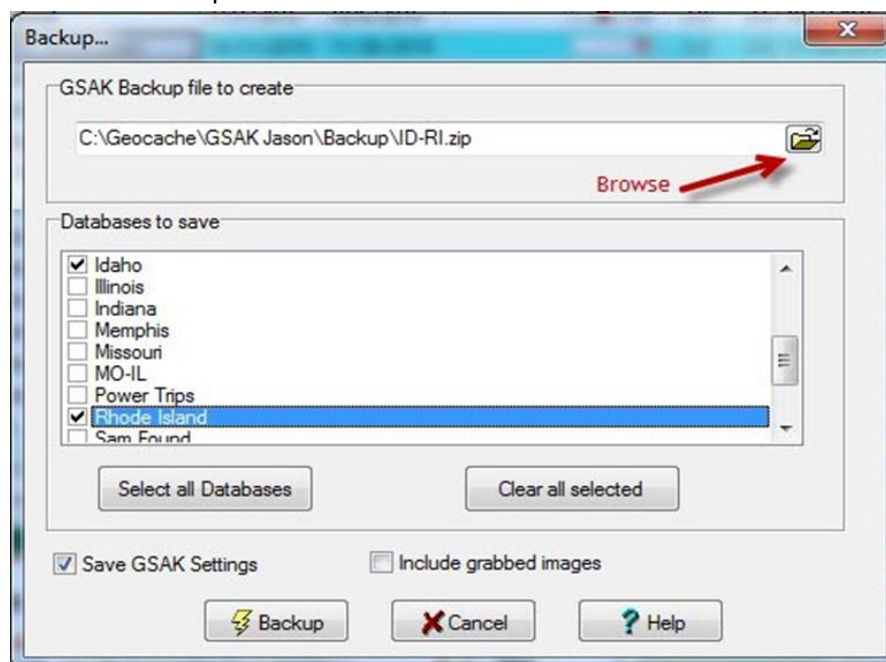
B. Manual Backup

On occasion you may want, or need, to manually backup your data to a different location than your automatic backups. For example, if you get a new computer and you want GSAK on the new computer to have the same data as your old one, you may want to manually backup. The same three methods discussed in 3.1.1 apply here.



Objective 3.1b: Manually backup specific databases to a flash drive

1. Insert a flash drive into a USB port on your computer. Once your computer recognizes it, make note of the drive letter assigned to the flash drive.
2. Click the **File** menu.
3. In the new menu that appears, click **Backup...**
4. In the **GSAK Backup file to create** section on the window that appears, choose your flash drive and create filename for your backed-up data. Click the **browse** button if you wish to browse to the backup location.



5. Choose the databases that you wish to backup.
6. Click the **Backup** button. GSAK will back up all the databases you have checked into the file that you specified in step 4.



Objective 3.1c: Manually backup specific databases to your computer

There is not really a need to go over the exact steps for this objective, as they are identical to the previous objective except step 4. Instead of choosing your flash drive, you will just choose a location on your computer.



Objective 3.1d: Manually backup your entire GSAK installation

1. If you wish to back up to a flash drive, insert it into a USB port on your computer and make note of the drive letter assigned to the drive. If you wish to just backup to the computer then move to next step.
2. Click the **File** menu.
3. In the new menu that appears, click **Backup...**
4. In the **GSAK Backup file to create** section on the window that appears, choose your desired location and create filename for your backed-up data. Click the **browse** button if you wish to browse to the backup location.
5. Click the **Select all Databases** button. All databases in the list will now be checked.
6. Check the **Save GSAK Settings** check box.
7. Check the **Include grabbed** images check box.
8. Click the **Backup** button. All databases, images and settings will be backed up into the file you indicated in step 4.

3.2 Restoring Your Data

The day will come when you will need to restore data from a backup. Maybe you've had a hard drive crash or you have a new computer and want to move GSAK from old to new without recreating it all from scratch.



Objective 3.2a: Restore databases only in a manual backup from a flash drive

1. Insert the flash drive with your backup into a USB port on your computer and make note of the drive letter assigned to the drive.
2. Click the **File** menu.
3. Click **Restore...** in the new menu.
4. If the location of the file you want to restore does not show up automatically in the **GSAK Backup file to restore from** section (and it probably won't) you will have to click the **browse** button and browse to the backup file you wish to restore from.
5. Select your backup file and a list of databases contained in the backup file will appear in the **Databases to restore** section.

6. If there is more than one database and you want to select them all, or clear them all, you can click the **Select all Databases** or **Clear all Selected** button depending on which you want to do. That saves you from having to click each one individually.
7. Click the **Restore** button. GSAK will create a database for each of the databases you checked and then import the data from the backup.



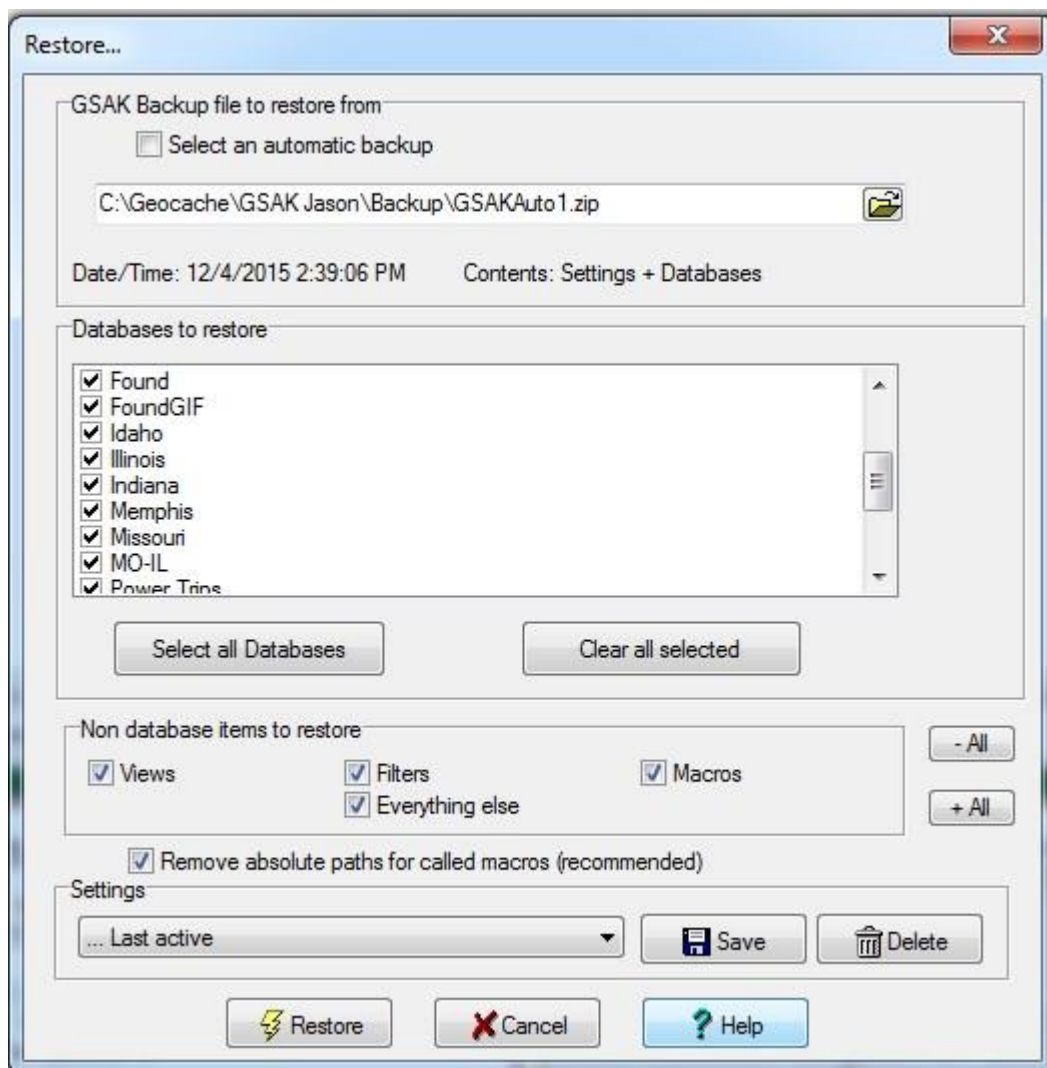
If you choose a database in your backup that has the same name as a current database in GSAK, it will overwrite that database. So, if you want to keep the current database with that name but also restore the old version, you must first go to the **Database** menu and select **Rename...** where you will be prompted to choose a database to rename and a new name for it.



Objective 3.2b: Restore backup of entire GSAK installation onto new or rebuilt computer

In the case of a new or rebuilt computer, you will need to install GSAK (including your registration information) and get it up to the most current patch prior to restoring the backups. Your GSAK license allows you to install GSAK on as many computers as you own. If you want to install GSAK on a computer that doesn't belong to you, a license for the person that owns that computer will need to be purchased.

1. Click the **File** menu.
2. Click **Restore...** in the new menu.
3. If GSAK doesn't automatically put the location of where your backup files are located, click the **browse** button and browse to the correct location. One way to make this easy on yourself is, after setting up GSAK, use Windows to copy your backup files to the location that you have indicated in the **Automatic Backup** section on your new computer. That's where GSAK will look first for the backups.
4. In the **Databases to restore** section select all the databases that you wish to restore.
5. In the **Non-database items to restore** section check all of the checkboxes.
6. Click the **Restore** button. All the databases you selected and the settings from your previous installation will be restored. That includes macros, buttons you've added to the toolbar and anything else that you've customized along the way.

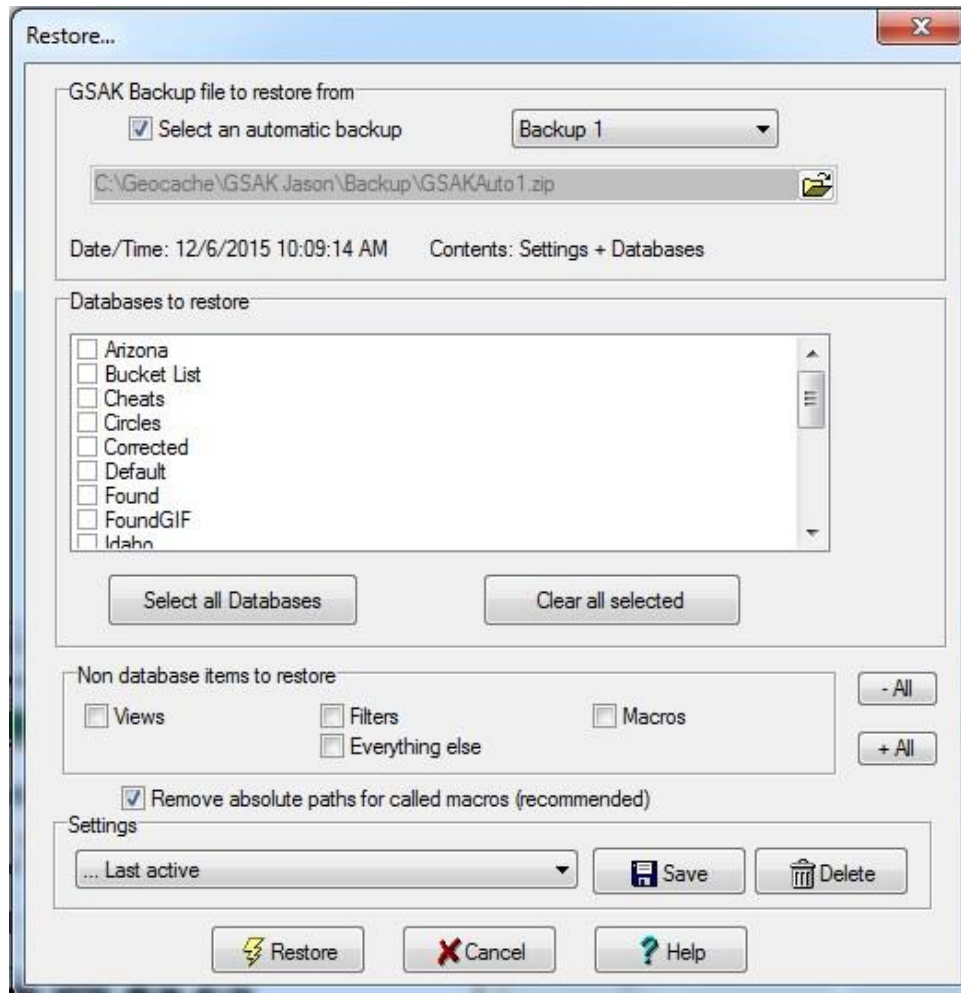


Objective 3.2c: Restore an automatic backup after messing up a database

There will be, at some point, a time when you need to restore a backup because you have done something to your database that gets it so messed up that you can't easily fix it. It is good practice to make a manual backup before you start experimenting with a macro or some other method of changing data and you are unsure about what the result will be. However, in the case that you don't make that manual backup, here are the steps for restoring from one of your automatic backups that were created the last time you exited GSAK.

1. Click the **File** menu.
2. Click **Restore...** in the new menu.
3. In the **GSAK Backup file to restore from** section, check the **Select an automatic backup** check box. The box below will fill with your automatic backup location and a new dropdown menu will appear to the right. The dropdown menu will be prefilled with Backup 1 through Backup 5.

4. If you want the most recent automatic backup, choose **Backup 1** in the dropdown. Backup 2 is the backup just prior to Backup 1 and Backup 5 is the oldest. Most of the time you will choose Backup 1.
5. Once you choose the backup, the list of databases will appear in the **Databases to restore** section. Choose the database(s) that you wish to restore. At a minimum, you will choose the one that matches up with the database that you were using when your experiment went awry.
6. Click the **Restore** button. Your database will be restored to the same state that it was in when the backup was made.



4.0 Filtering

GSAK provides a very powerful tool called Filters. The purpose of a filter is to tell GSAK to only show you caches in a database that you want to see. It simply hides what you don't want to see. The different combinations by which you can filter a database are limited only by your imagination. Remember, this GSAK function does not filter *geocaching.com*; it only filters a GSAK database you have populated with geocaches.




You cannot cause any damage to your database with a filter. It simply temporarily hides caches that you don't want to see. Feel free to experiment all you want without fear of causing harm. You'll be glad you took the time to learn how to filter!

The Filter window has nine different tabs on it. Select any tab and a smorgasbord of options pops up. There is no way to discuss all of them within the class time, so I will give four examples of filters so that you become comfortable using them, and then you can explore it on your own.




Objective 4.0a: Find all the caches that are Difficulty 2 or higher, Terrain 3 or higher and placed before 10/20/2012 that are type Multi and located in Montana. Then save the filter for later use

1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. Click the **Filter** button on the toolbar to open the **Set Filter** window. 
3. Select the **General** tab.
4. Find **Difficulty**.
5. In the dropdown menu to the right, choose **Greater than or equal to**.
6. In the box to the right of the dropdown choose **2.0**.
7. Below **Difficulty** find **Terrain**.
8. In the dropdown menu to the right, choose **Greater than or equal to**.
9. In the box to the right of the dropdown choose **3.0**.



The screenshot shows the 'Set Filter' window with the 'General' tab selected. Under the 'Difficulty' section, the dropdown menu is set to 'Greater than or equal to' and the value '2.0' is entered. Below it, under the 'Terrain' section, the dropdown menu is also set to 'Greater than or equal to' and the value '3.0' is entered.

10. At the top of the **Set Filter** window select the **Dates** tab.
11. The second option down will be **Placed date**. To the right of **Placed date** select **On or before**.
12. Once you select **On or before** a calendar box will appear to the right. In that calendar choose 10/20/2012.



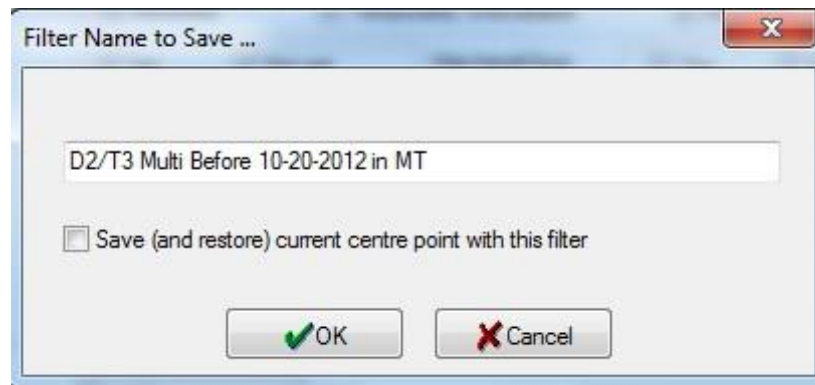
The screenshot shows the 'Set Filter' window with the 'Dates' tab selected. The 'Placed date' section is highlighted, showing a dropdown menu set to 'On or before' and a calendar box displaying '10/20/2012'.

13. At the top of the **Set Filter** window select the **Other** tab.
14. The top section on this tab shows all of the cache types available and they are all checked. On the top right corner of the section click the **–All** button. This will uncheck all of the cache types.
15. In the same section check the check box next to **Multi**.
16. A little further down the same window you will see **State**. In the dropdown to the right select **Equal to**.
17. In the text box to the right of the dropdown enter **Montana**.



I'm going to stop here and point out 2 important points concerning the state values you enter. First, the value you put here is not case sensitive. So, **Montana** and **montana** are the same for practical purposes. Second, if you have set GSAK to abbreviate states then you must enter the abbreviation **MT** (again, not case sensitive) instead of typing the entire state name.

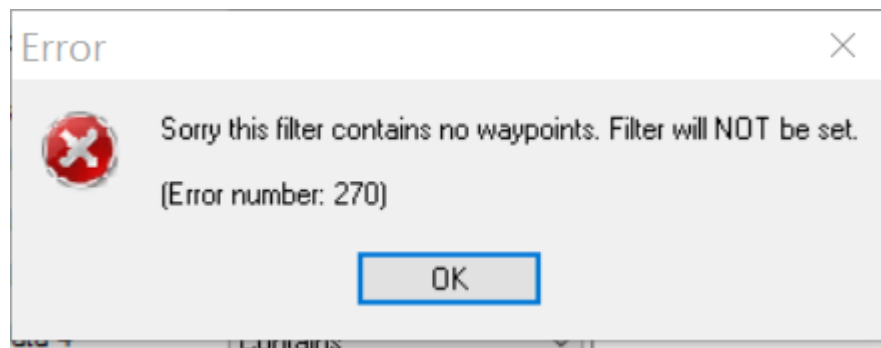
18. Now that we are done setting up the filter we are going to save it. Click the **Save** button at the bottom of the **Set Filter** window to open the **Filter name to save...** window.




19. Enter a name that will mean something to you and describe the filter.
20. If you wish to save the center point you are currently using and always use it with this filter check the **Save (and restore) current centre point with this filter** check box. After you save a filter, it will show up in the **Select a saved filter dropdown** on your toolbar.
21. Click the **OK** button and this window will disappear and the filter will be saved.
22. Click the **Go** button at the bottom of the **Set Filter** window.



If there are no caches that match your search criteria, then you will receive an *Error Message* that reads, “**Sorry this filter contains no waypoints. Filter will NOT be set.**” Remember, the terms waypoint and geocache are interchangeable in GSAK. Just click **OK** to dismiss this message.



 When a filter is applied the caches appear in a list within the database called a **subset**. To cancel that subset and return to the entire database, click the **Search** menu. In the drop-down menu, click **Cancel Filter** and the normal database returns in its entirety.

5.0 Global Replace

This is a powerful tool used to change the same field in a group of geocaches from its current value to a new value. For example, you might be experimenting and need to change your found status on caches to unfound. Instead of doing all of them one at a time, **Global Replace** accomplishes the task in just a few seconds.



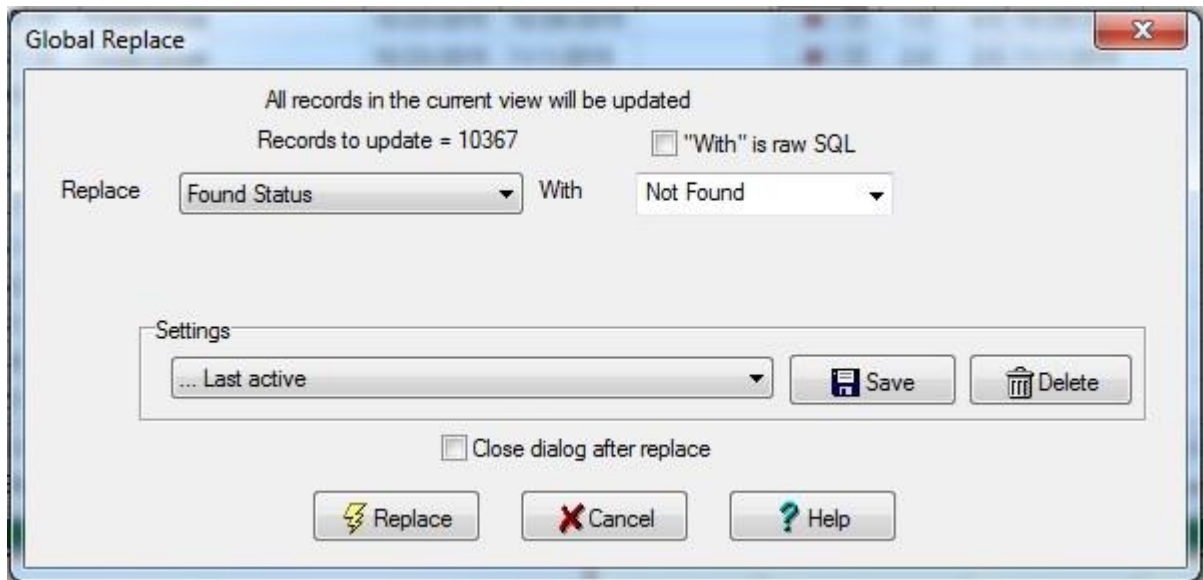
Objective 5.0a: Create a file for a friend with caches that you have found but caches your friend still needs to find

You and a friend are planning a caching trip in Queeny Park. You have found most of the caches and your friend has found none. You want to create a database that you can load into your friends' GPSr, and you want that database to show that all caches within Queeny have not been found by your friend.


If you download the caches from geocaching.com to the new GSAK database, they will show up in the database indicating that they have been found by you. When you load them in your friends GPSr, their GPSr will think they've already been found. **Global Replace** will fix that problem.


1. Click the **Tools** menu.
2. Click the **Options...** menu to open the **Options** window.
3. Click the **Advanced** tab.
4. The **Advanced** tab has 2 tabs on it, **Page 1** and **Page 2**. Make sure **Page 1** is selected.
5. In the middle of **Page 1**, uncheck the box for **Interrogate logs for Finds/DNF**.
6. Click **OK**.
7. Open the database that has the caches you want to send.
8. Filter your database for caches that you want to send to your friend. It's ok to have more caches than what you want so you don't necessarily have to worry about it being exact.
9. Click the **Database** menu at the top of the screen.
10. Click the **Global replace...** menu to open the **Global Replace** window.
11. On this window, you will see the word **Replace** with a dropdown just to the right. That is the dropdown that we use to tell GSAK which data we want to replace. Choose **Found Status** in the dropdown.
12. To the right of the **Replace** dropdown box you will see **With** and another dropdown to its right. This is the value that we want GSAK to put into the field we chose in the previous step. Choose **Not Found** in the dropdown.


13. Click **Replace**. The **Global Replace** window will disappear and your caches should now show as **Not Found**.



14. Click the **File** menu at the top of GSAK.
15. Hold your mouse cursor over, or click, the **Export** menu item. A new sub-menu will show to the right.
16. Click the **GPX/GGZ/LOC file...** menu item to open the **Export GPX/LOC File** window.
17. Most of the time, all you need to worry about is the filename. In the **Filename to create** box you can both type the full path and filename of the file you wish to create or you can click the browse button and browse to the location where you want the file to be created.
18. Click **Generate**. The file will be created with the name and location that you specified. This is the file you will send to a friend for them to import into their database.

 When you import a cache, GSAK will, by default, check to see if you have logged it. If you have, it will mark it found and add the found date to match your found log date. Simply changing a cache from found to not found seems simple, but because of this GSAK behavior, we must do a little extra work. That is the reason for step 5 in the instruction above.

 There may be a rare occasion where you may create a GPX file with the method described above and it fails when you try to load it into a GPSr. If that happens, try exporting again but this time, in the **File Type** section on the **Export GPX/LOC File** window, choose **1.1** instead of **1.0** in the dropdown.

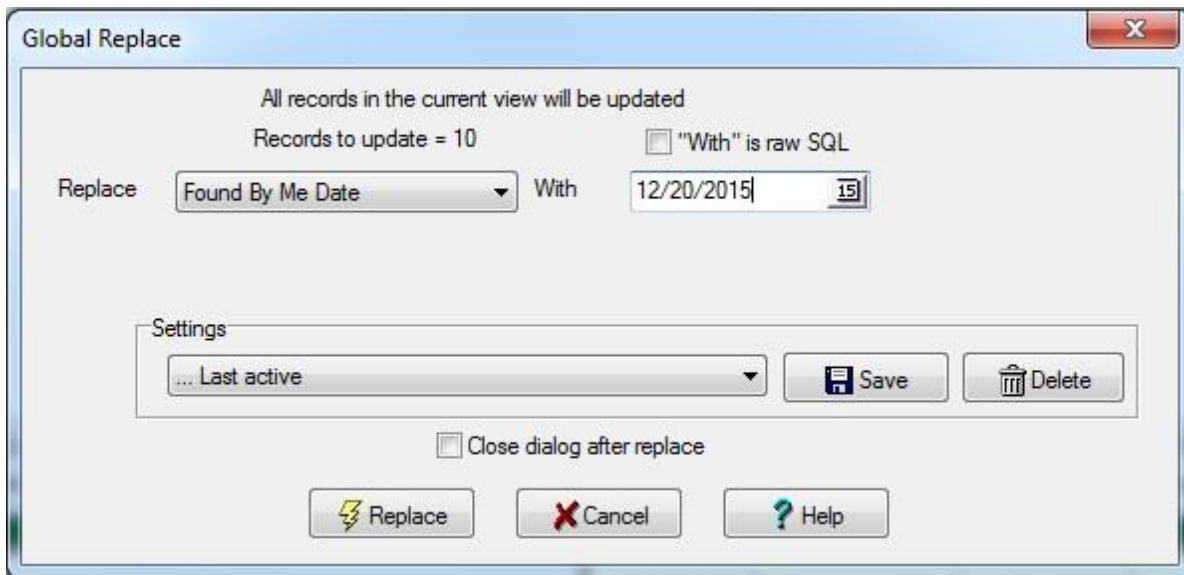
 After you are done with your replace, don't forget to go back and do steps 1-6 again, only this time make sure the **Interrogate logs for Finds/DNF** box is **CHECKED**.



Objective 5.0b: Change the Found by Me Date in all the caches to December 20, 2015

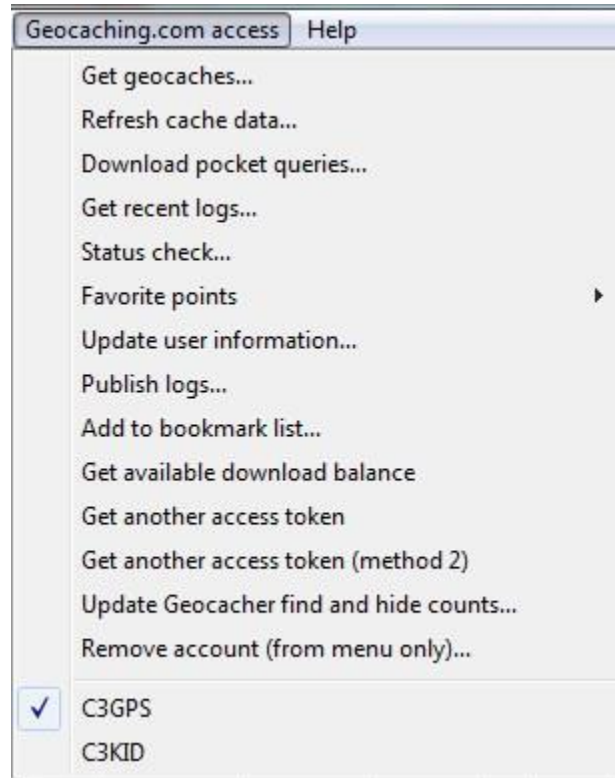
To show a more basic use for Global Replace, let's change the **Found by me date** in a group of caches to 12-20-2015. We are not concerned, for this objective, if you have found the caches or not. We are just walking through the steps for demonstration purposes.

1. Open the **GSAK 201** database.
2. Click the **Database** menu.
3. Click the **Global Replace...** menu to show the **Global Replace** window.
4. In the dropdown to the right of **Replace**, choose **Found By Me Date**.
5. In the box to the right of **With** type **12/20/2015**.
6. Click the **Replace** button. All caches in your current filter will now have a **Found By Me Date** of 12-20-2015 and will all be marked **Found**.
7. The **Global Replace** window does not disappear after the replace. If you are finished replacing everything you want, click the **Cancel** button, or the red X in the top right corner, to make the window close.



6.0 Publishing Logs with GSAK

Publishing logs with GSAK has a bit of a learning curve but, once you get it set up, it will likely be one of your favorite GSAK features. You access the Publish logs... feature under the Geocaching.com access menu.



6.1 Publish logs...

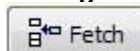
One of the most powerful and useful features of GSAK is the ability to log your finds and your DNF's very quickly. If you take some time to set this up it has the potential to save you an enormous amount of time logging caches. We will cover two different methods on logging caches. Each method will require you to set up templates that GSAK will use during the publish process. The use of templates enables you to have standard boilerplate text for each log type. These templates can just be literal text, but are more useful if you include dynamic information - which we refer to as tags. Any tags in your template will be replaced with actual values during the publish process. All tags are preceded by a percent character (%).

Templates can be made for many different types of logs. However, the most common are **Found it**, **Didn't find it**, **Attended** and **Webcam photo taken**. These four templates will likely take care of most, if not all, of the logs you will be publishing through GSAK. The other types are available but are generally logged via geocaching.com.



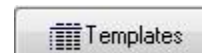
Objective 6.3a: Publish found it logs for caches in a filter with a simple template

1. Click the **Geocaching.com access** menu.
2. Click **Publish logs...** in the opened menu. The **Publish logs** window will open.
3. In the middle of the **Publish logs** window you will see a button labeled **Fetch**. The same button also appears along the lower left side of the **Publish logs** window. Both buttons do the exact same thing so you can click either one now.



4. In the menu that appears, click **From filter**. All the caches in your filter will be added to this window. If GSAK asks if you want to add all in the database, click **Yes** for the purposes of this exercise.

5. Click the **Templates** button at the bottom of the **Publish logs** window.



6. In the **Publish Templates** window choose **Found it** in the dropdown at the top.

Found it

7. In the big white text box in the **Template** section type the following text without the quotes: "Thank you for hiding this cache. I appreciate it."
8. Click the **OK** button. The **Publish Templates** window will save the template and disappear.
9. Now we have to apply the template to the caches in the list. Highlight any of the caches in the list then, on your keyboard, press **CTRL+A**. This will highlight all of the caches in the list.
10. On any of the highlighted caches, right-click with your mouse. A new menu will appear.
11. In the new menu, click **Reapply Templates**. This will apply the text we just put in the Found it template to all of the caches in the list.
12. Click the **Publish all** button. **DO NOT DO THIS STEP IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO ACTUALLY PUBLISH THE FOUND LOGS.**



Published logs can only be removed or edited manually, one at a time, on the geocaching.com website. This can be quite a tedious task if you have many to do. Make sure you are ready to publish before actually clicking the **Publish all** button!



If you want to see exactly what will get published to your found it log on Geocaching.com you can do the following from the Publish logs window.

1. Right click any cache to open a new menu.
2. On the new menu click **Edit** to open the **Publish logs edit** window.
3. On this window, about half way down, you will see a **Preview** tab. Click the **Preview** tab.



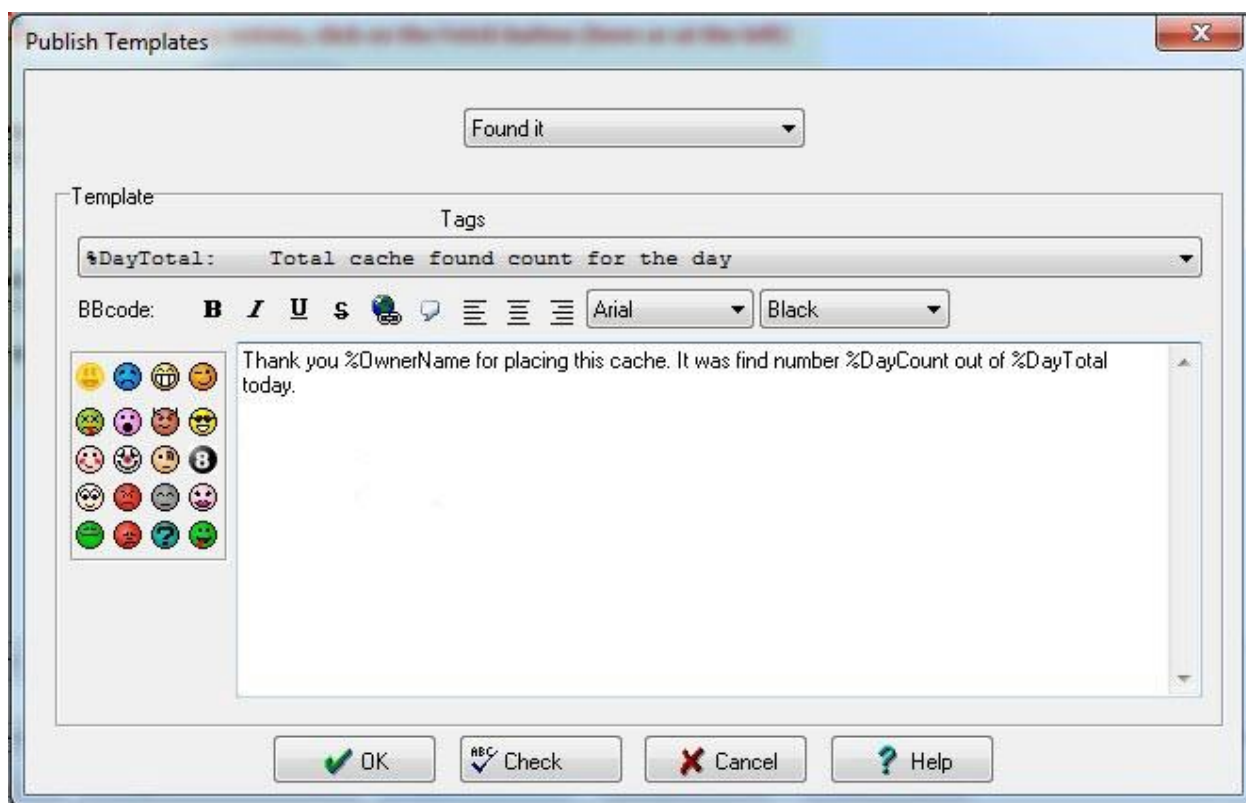
4. You should now see exactly what your log will look like on Geocaching.com after it's published.



Objective 6.3b: Create a template that will say: “Thank you <OwnerName> for placing this cache. It was find number <X> out of <Y> today.” but automatically fill in the owner name and find numbers so that it doesn’t have to be done manually

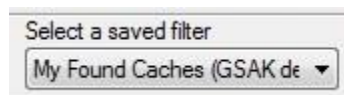
1. Click the **Geocaching.com** access menu.
2. Click **Publish logs...** in the opened menu. The **Publish logs** window will open.
3. At the bottom of the **Publish logs** window click the **Templates** button. The **Publish Templates** window will open.
4. On the **Publish Templates** window, at the top, is a drop down that has a list of the templates that we can set up. In that drop down, choose **Found It**.
5. Also on this window you will see a white box in which you can type your template text.
6. In that box type the following without quotes: “Thank you ” (notice the space after the word “you”).
7. From the Tags dropdown above the big text box, choose **%OwnerName**. This will show in the text box as **%OwnerName**.
8. After **%OwnerName** type the following, with a space at the beginning, a space at the end and without quotes: “ for placing this cache. It was find number “.
9. From the Tags dropdown choose **%DayCount** and it will appear in the text box.
10. Type the following in the text box: “ out of “.
11. From the Tags dropdown choose **%DayTotal** and it will appear in the text box.
12. Type the following in the text box: “ today.”
13. Your text should now look like this (without quotes): “Thank you %OwnerName for placing this cache. It was find number %DayCount out of %DayTotal today.”
14. Click the **OK** button to save the template.
15. Repeat steps 1-14 for the **Didn’t Find it**, **Attended** and **Webcam Photo Taken** templates. However, feel free to change the text to anything you want. If you wish the **Attended** and **Webcam Photo Taken** templates to be the same as your **Found it** template you can just copy and paste what you’ve already done into those templates and save them.

This template will tell GSAK that during publish it should replace the tags with the actual values.



Objective 6.3c: Publish logs using the template above. Caches to publish will be retrieved from a filter you have set with the caches to be logged

1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. In the Select a saved filter dropdown on your toolbar choose **My Found Caches (GSAK Default)**.
3. Click the **Geocaching.com access** menu.
4. Click **Publish logs...**
5. In the new window that appears, click the **Fetch** button.
6. In the menu that appears, click **From filter**. This will load all of the caches in the current filter into the publish window and they will show in the same order in which they are showing in the filter.
7. If you wish to reorder the caches so that they will publish in the same order you found them, highlight the cache you wish to reorder and click either the **↑ Move** or the **↓ Move** button that corresponds with the direction in which you want to move the cache in the order.
8. When you have the caches in your desired order, click the **Publish all** button and GSAK will connect to Geocaching.com and publish all of your logs for the caches you chose.

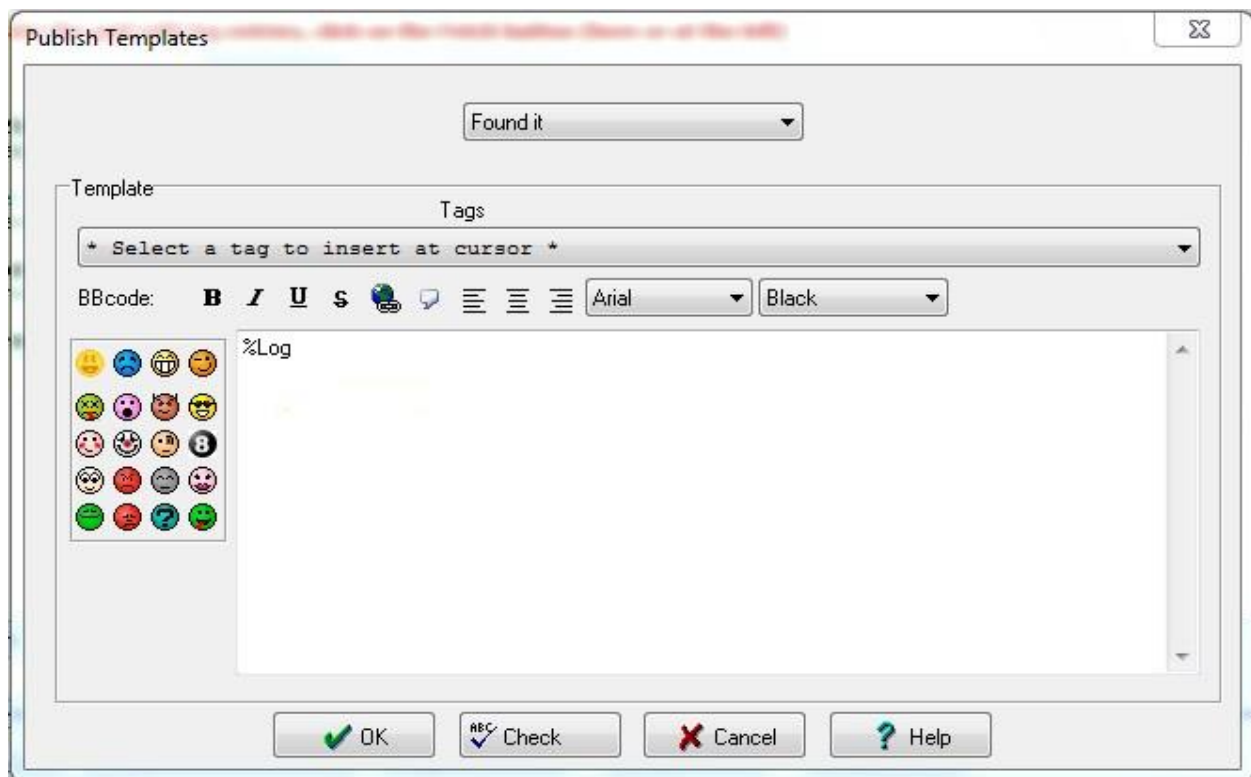




Objective 6.3d: Create a template that will apply the text you will enter into the Log section of each cache into your published log

This method of logging caches is a bit less complicated in the long term, in my opinion. It allows you to set a template one time and never change it. If you want different text in your log you will simply change the Log text for that cache before you publish. A macro has been written to allow you to apply text to the Log section for many caches all at one time for those power trail logs that will all be the same. It's called **AddTextToUserLog.gsk** and is available to anyone who requests it.

1. Click the **Geocaching.com access** menu.
2. Click **Publish logs...** in the opened menu. The **Publish logs** menu will open.
3. At the bottom of the **Publish logs** window click the **Templates** button. The **Publish Templates** window will open.
4. On the **Publish Templates** window, at the top, is a drop down that has a list of the templates that we can set up. In that drop down, make sure **Found It** is selected.
5. Also on this window you will see a white box in which you can type your template text.
6. In the box type the following without quotes: `"%Log"`
7. Click the **OK** button to save the template.
8. Repeat steps 1-7 for the Didn't Find it, Attended, Webcam Photo Taken and any other template that you want to create.





Objective 6.3e: Manually add our log text to the Log section for the caches in our filter

1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. In the Select a saved filter dropdown on your toolbar choose **My Found Caches (GSAK Default)**.
3. Find your **Notes** column. It's the one that looks like a piece of paper in the column header.

Code			lg	
GC5QHW8				
GC6536C				

4. Double click in the **Notes** column in the same row as one of the caches in your filter. That will open up the **Notes** window.
5. In the **Notes** window there are 2 big text boxes where you can type anything you want. The top one is labeled **User Notes** and the bottom one is labeled **Log Section**. The **Log Section** box is the one we are interested in.

Notes

GC6536C Stubborn

User Notes

Font

Time stamp

Log Section

Font


Time stamp

LogCache Macro LogCache.gsk

Time stamp format M/d/yyyy h:mm:ss AMPM

Save Notes Logs Picture Log cache Corrected

Copy Delete Print Cancel Help Children

6. For the sake of consistency we will create the same log here that we did in [Objective 6.3b](#). In the **Log Section** type the following without quotes: "Thank you %OwnerName for placing this cache. It was find number %DayCount out of %DayTotal today."
7. Click the **Save** button.
8. You will now see a half sheet in the **Notes** column for the cache that has that text you just saved. This just indicates that there is content in the **Log Section** for that cache. 
9. Repeat steps 2-6 for the subsequent caches. You can copy and paste the text from the first one into the others. Or, if you want the log to be different just put in what you want. You do not have to use the tags if you don't want to.



Objective 6.3f: Publish logs using our template and apply a favorite point to one of our finds using the template above. Caches to publish will be retrieved from a filter you have set with the caches to be logged

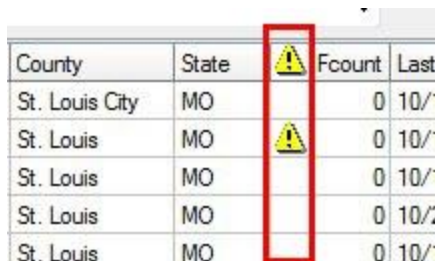
1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. Click the **Geocaching.com access** menu.
3. Click **Publish logs...**
4. In the new window that appears, click the **Fetch** button.
5. In the menu that appears, click **From filter**. This will load all the caches in the current filter into the publish window and they will show in the same order in which they are showing in the filter.
6. If you wish to reorder the caches so that they will publish in the same order you found them, highlight the cache you wish to reorder and click either the **↑ Move** or the **↓ Move** button that corresponds with the direction in which you want to move the cache in the order.
7. Choose a cache to which you want to apply a favorite point. Right click that cache.
8. On the menu that appears, click **Edit**.
9. A new window will appear that will show your template and other information. On this window, at the top, check the **Add favorite point** check box. GSAK will check with Geocaching.com to make sure you have favorite points to give before allowing you to continue.
10. Click the **OK** button.
11. Repeat steps 7-9 for any other caches that you wish to apply favorite points to.
12. If you are ready to publish but do not wish to publish all the caches in the list, for whatever reason, you can publish some now and some later. To highlight the caches you wish to publish now, hold down the **CTRL** button on the keyboard and select each cache you wish to publish. If you wish to publish all in the window, skip to step 14.
13. When you have all caches selected that you wish to publish, click the **Publish selected** button. GSAK will connect to Geocaching.com and publish all the logs for only the caches you have highlighted and apply favorite points if indicated.
14. If you wish to publish all the caches in the list, click the **Publish all** button and GSAK will connect to Geocaching.com and publish all of your logs and apply favorite points to the caches you chose.



7.0 Corrected Coordinates

Correcting coordinates in GSAK will enable you to take advantage of one of the most useful features of GSAK. If you solve a puzzle at home, you can enter the corrected coordinates in GSAK and, once you load them into your GPS, it will guide you to the new coordinates as opposed to the coordinates where the cache is listed. Corrected coordinates can be entered for any cache type in GSAK.

There are correct and incorrect ways to enter corrected coordinates. We will cover the correct ways. If you choose to do it differently than shown here, you do so at your own risk.

To quickly see if you have entered corrected coordinates for a cache, make sure you have the **Corrected Coordinates Indicator** column displayed. If you don't have it displayed you can turn it on under Tools > Options, Display tab.



County	State		Fcount	Last
St. Louis City	MO		0	10/7
St. Louis	MO		0	10/7
St. Louis	MO		0	10/7
St. Louis	MO		0	10/7
St. Louis	MO		0	10/7

The Corrected Coordinates Indicator column will have the yellow triangle with the exclamation point in it. The same icon will show in any caches in which you have entered corrected coordinates.



Objective 7.0a: Enter corrected coordinates

1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. Use one of the following methods to open the Corrected Coordinates window:
 - a. Double click in the **Corrected Coordinates Indicator** column for desired cache.
 - b. Right click cache and choose the **Corrected Coordinates...** menu item.
 - c. Highlight cache then choose the **Waypoint** menu then the **Corrected Coordinates...** menu.
3. The **Corrected Coordinates** window will appear with the corrected coordinates currently filled in the **Lat/Lon** box. If you have not corrected them in the past, the coordinates showing will be the original coordinates entered by the cache owner.
4. In the **Lat/Lon** box enter the actual corrected coordinates.
5. At the bottom of the window check the **Force elevation refresh** check box.
6. Click the **OK** button to save the coordinates.

The corrected coordinates indicator will now be set for that cache so that you can easily see that corrected coordinates have been entered.



Objective 7.0b: Delete corrected coordinates in GSAK

1. Open the GSAK 201 database.
2. Use one of the following methods to open the Corrected Coordinates window:
 - a. Double click in the **Corrected Coordinates Indicator** column for desired cache.
 - b. Right click cache and choose the **Corrected Coordinates...** menu item.
 - c. Highlight cache then choose the **Waypoint** menu then the **Corrected Coordinates...** menu.
3. The **Corrected Coordinates** window will appear with the corrected coordinates currently filled in the **Lat/Lon** box.
4. Click the **Delete** button at the bottom. You will get a message box telling you that the corrected coordinates have been deleted.

The corrected coordinates indicator will now be removed from that cache and the coordinates that will show will be the original coordinates that were downloaded from geocaching.com.



IMPORTANT: No matter how you correct the coordinates there is a way to inadvertently overwrite them. Let's say you correct the coordinates of a cache in database 1 but you have the same cache in database 2 without corrected coordinates. If you copy the cache from database 2 to database 1, it will copy the entire cache over, effectively wiping out the corrected coordinates in database 1. It would be good practice to either make sure you always copy FROM the database with corrected coordinates or have a database that only contains caches with corrected coordinates that you use as a storage location for those caches.



Objective 7.0c: Get corrected coordinates entered on cache page on Geocaching.com into GSAK

Geocaching.com allows you to enter corrected coordinates on the cache page for Unknown (?) caches. When you do this, those coordinates will be in any pocket queries that include that cache. That, in and of itself, is not a bad thing. However, the file that is created by geocaching.com has nothing in it that indicates that those coordinates are corrected. As a result, the cache in GSAK will not have the corrected coordinator set after the file is imported.

To set the corrected coordinates indicator do the following in GSAK:

1. Highlight the cache in your database.
2. Click the **Geocaching.com access** menu.
3. Click the **Refresh cache data...** menu to display the **Refresh Cache Data** window.
4. Choose **Current cache only** in the **Scope** section.
5. Click the **OK** button.

GSAK will update the cache with the most current information and show you a summary window. You can close that window and see that the cache will have the corrected coordinates indicator.

Now for the confusing part. If you load that cache again from a new gpx file or pocket query, the corrected coordinates indicator will once again be removed. There are two ways to prevent this from happening:

1. After you refresh cache data and the corrected coordinates indicator appears, you can open the **Corrected Coordinates** window with any method mentioned in [Objective 7.0a step 2](#) and then click the **OK** button. This is probably the easiest way if you only have a few to do.
2. There is a macro written called **SetCorrFlagCurrentFilter.gsk** (included with this class material) that will set the corrected coordinates flag and make it so that the corrected coordinates will not be overwritten during a future import. This macro will run on every cache in a filter so make sure you filter and show only the caches you want set prior to running the macro.

8.0 Adding Buttons to the Toolbar

GSAK will allow you to customize your toolbar and either add buttons that you use often, or remove buttons that you don't use often. This customization is backed up when your automatic backups are created.

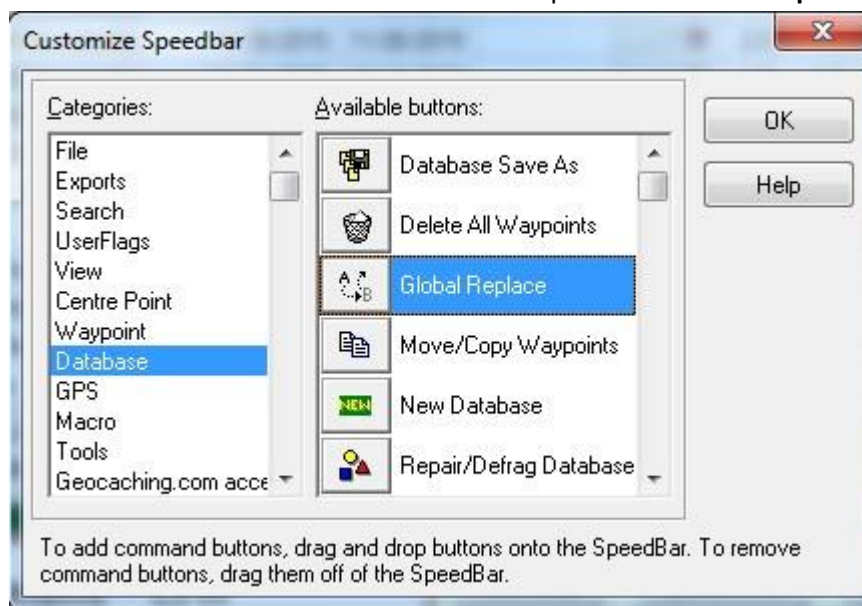
8.1 Adding Predefined Buttons to the Toolbar

Almost every menu item in GSAK has a predefined button also assigned to it. However, there is clearly not enough room for all of the buttons. So, GSAK allows us to add them as we please.



Objective 8.1a: Add the Global Replace button to your toolbar

1. Click the **Macro** menu.
2. Click the **Add Button to Tool Bar...** menu to open the **Customize Speedbar** window.



3. In the **Categories** pane select **Database**.
4. In the **Available buttons** pane scroll down and select **Global Replace**.
5. Using your mouse, grab the button to the left of **Global Replace** and drag it up to your toolbar where you want it. Once you have it where you want it, let go of it with your mouse and it will be placed on the toolbar.
6. Click the **OK** button to save your changes.



If you want to simply re-order buttons, rather than add one, just open the **Customize Speedbar** window and that will put GSAK in the proper mode. Then you can drag the buttons around the toolbar until you are happy with their locations. Then click the **OK** button on the **Customize Speedbar** window.

8.2 Adding Macro Buttons to the Toolbar

If you have macros that you have installed and run often, you can configure a button to run them and then add that button to the toolbar. This saves you from having to go to a potentially long list of macros to find the one you want in order to run it.



Objective 8.2a: Configure and add a button to the toolbar that will run the AddTextToUserLog.gsk macro

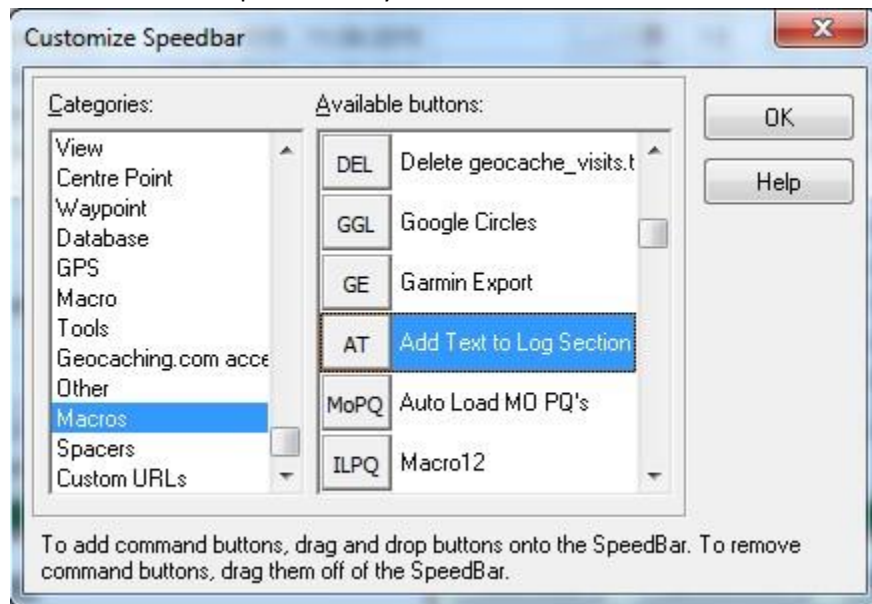
1. Click the **Macro** menu at the top of the main GSAK window.
2. Click the **Button Configuraton...** menu to open the **Macro Button Configuration** window.
3. Under the **Macro Button** text, choose an unused button name. If you have never configured a macro button the first unused one will say **1-M1**. All unused buttons will have the button number and then an M followed by the button number. So, if the 13th button is unused it will say **13-M13**.
4. In the box under **Button Text** enter **AT**. You will see in the bottom right corner a section called **Toolbar sample**. This will show you what your button will look like. If you enter too many characters in the **Button Text**, the button will not stretch and it will look odd. So keep it short and sweet.
5. In the box below **Button Description and Hint** type in **Add Text to Log Section**. This is the text that will show when you hover your mouse over the button.
6. In the **Macro File Name** box type the name of the macro. In this case it's **AddTextToUserLog.gsk**. You do not need to put a full path to it if the macro is installed in the GSAK macros folder. In this case we know it is since we installed it earlier in section 1.
7. Leave the **Icon File Name** box empty. If you wish to use this, you can only use BMP files and you must put a full path to the file. Using this will show the icon on the button instead of the text we entered in step 4.
8. Click the **Save** button to save the settings and close the window. The macro button configuration is complete. Now we have to add it to the toolbar.

The screenshot shows the 'Macro Button Configuration' dialog box. It has a title bar with a close button. The main area contains several fields and sections:

- Macro Button (Currently on tool bar):** A dropdown menu showing '10 - AT'.
- Button Text:** A text box containing 'AT'.
- Button Description and Hint:** A text box containing 'Add Text to Log Section'.
- Macro File Name:** A text box containing 'AddTextToUserLog.gsk' with a folder icon to its right.
- Icon file name:** An empty text box with a folder icon to its right.
- Pixel values (leave blank for defaults):** A section with two input boxes: 'Height' (28) and 'Width' (35). Below them, it says 'Default values, Height: 28 Width: 28'.
- Toolbar sample:** A preview area showing a button with the text 'AT'.

At the bottom of the dialog are three buttons: 'Save' (with a green checkmark icon), 'Cancel' (with a red X icon), and 'Help' (with a question mark icon).

9. Click the **Macro** menu at the top of the main GSAK window.
10. Click the **Add Button to Tool Bar...** menu to open the **Customize Speedbar** window.
11. In the **Categories** pane select **Macros** (NOT **Macro**).
12. In the **Available buttons** pane select your **AT** button.



13. Using your mouse, grab the **AT** button and drag it up to your toolbar where you want it. Once you have it where you want it, let go of it with your mouse and it will be placed on the toolbar.
14. Click the **OK** button to save your changes.



Notice that it was specifically mentioned to select **Macros** and not **Macro**. Selecting **Macro** will give you the choices for the menu items under the **Macro** menu. **Macros** will give you the buttons that can be specifically configured to run individual macros.



In the Macro Button Configuration window, you can see a Height and Width box with 28 set as the default value. You can change these values but you must be aware that ALL buttons will be changed to the values you set here, not just the button you are configuring.

8.3 Removing Buttons from the Toolbar.

So, you've added a bunch of buttons to your toolbar and now you have decided that you don't need them all there any longer. Removing them is simple.



Objective 8.3a: Remove the Global Replace button from the toolbar

So, you've had the Global Replace button on your toolbar for a while now and you realize that you never really use it. So, you want to remove it to make room for something that you use more often.

1. Click the **Macro** menu.
2. Click the **Add Button to Tool Bar...** menu to open the **Customize Speedbar** window.
3. The toolbar at the top is now in edit mode. Grab the **Global Replace** button that we added it earlier and drag it down to just below the toolbar. You will see it disappear and the spot on the toolbar will no longer have a button.
4. Click **OK** on the **Customize Speedbar** window to save the changes.