

Uncle Karl's Guide to
Munzee

A scavenger hunt for the 21st Century



by Karl R. Witsman
and Donna Carlene

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Photo credit: Lily Leveille (using Paper Camera Android app by JFDP Labs)

This is not an official guide. Uncle Karl is not employed by Munzee, Inc., nor would they want him!

Munzee™ is the trademark of Munzee, Inc. and Freeze Tag, Inc. and the author wishes to respect their trademark. However, it will not appear within the text more than once. Just understand that it is trademarked. Many other trademarked games and programs are mentioned. I'm not going to put the ™ symbol behind them all. If you have questions, then you can Google them. Is your hand broken or something?

This book is dedicated to my father, Gene Witsman, who recently passed. He was an industrial engineer and would have loved working out the math associated with GPS and Munzees.

Disclaimer: Things change in this game every month. I try to update this book every six months, so it will not contain everything in the game. If you see something strange on your Munzee map, scan it! You never know what you might find. Some resources for up to date information are listed at the end of the book, and there are active Facebook groups where you can get additional information.

This is truly an international game. More people from Britain and Australia bought the first edition of this book than those in the United States, where I am. Cheers, mates! And thanks.

Thanks to those Munzers whose deployments appear in the photos in this booklet. Most of the photos were taken by Donna Carlene unless otherwise noted. Thanks to Lily Leveille and Tina Simpson for their editorial suggestions. Thanks to Jennifer Guyer for ongoing inspiration to keep updating this book.

Foreword

In July of 2011, four men in Texas released a new game into the world that would utilize smartphone, QR code, and GPS technology. The merger of the use of these three items would allow a game using geolocation and hunting skills. Geolocation allows one to use GPS to find things that others hide in the real world. This was no mere academic exercise; it involved some locomotion whether by bus, car, bike or walking. There could be real exercise in it! And who among us doesn't need some exercise?

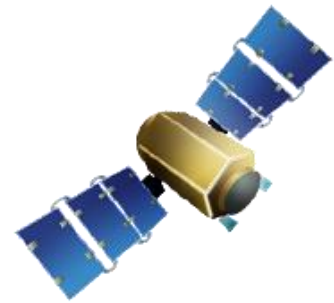
Munzee game developers Aaron Benzick, Chris Pick, Scott Foster and Josh Terkelsen had a hit on their hands. They called the game a "21st century scavenger hunt," in which iPhone or Android smartphone owners could search out and scan QR codes hidden around their secret lair in the Dallas, Texas area. (Pssst, it's in McKinney, TX)

The brilliant addition to the game of getting points for each scan and then the ability to level up for finding more codes was a winner. Giving points for creating and deploying your own Munzees would help get people out there and placing more codes as well.

The game is similar to Geocaching™ and it gets compared to that game often. Sometimes this is flattering and sometimes not. I play both games and they are different animals, to be sure.

It could also be compared to Waymarking™ and GeoCheckPoint™ and GeoDash™ because these also mark locations, but the use of QR codes makes it unique so far. (Although other games are starting to copy the idea)

The first locations may have only been around Dallas, but currently (February, 2019) there are over 370,000 Munzee Hunters with over 8 million Munzees to hunt. They are all over the world now, even one at the South Pole. There are a few in Germany which I hope to capture someday. There have been over 200 million captures on those Munzees, so somebody has been busy. Isn't it about time that you got busy too?



NOTE: When I wrote the first version of this book, in October 2012, there were only 55,000 Munzee Hunters with almost 220,000 Munzees to hunt. This is phenomenal growth for a sport/hobby.

SPECIAL NOTE: There are iPhone™ and Android™ versions of the game. I have an Android phone, so my screenshots may look different from yours, but don't worry, I will try to be fair to everyone.

ANOTHER SPECIAL NOTE: Uncle Karl says "Enough with the **** trademark symbol! We get it already!"

SPECIAL SPECIAL NOTE: Karl Witsman is, by all accounts, a really nice guy. His alter ego Uncle Karl can be a bit of a...well, anyway, if anything in this booklet is offensive or wrong, then Uncle Karl probably snuck it in. It's Hell being your own evil twin. ***Nurse, I think it's time for more of my medicine now!***

There is a cost to this book

But it isn't in money. If you like this book, please place a virtual Munzee somewhere in the Danville, Illinois area (USA). Here are some helpful links:

This is Danville as a whole: <https://www.munzee.com/map/dp1smyvb6/13>

This is our memorial garden for dogs: <https://www.munzee.com/map/dp1sqjr3k/16>

This is our memorial garden for cats: <https://www.munzee.com/map/dp1sm8t8s/16>

If you don't like the book, then what's wrong with you, huh? I mean....

Sorry! Uncle Karl was getting a little rambunctious there. Nurse! Nurse!

What is a Munzee?

I assume that you are a somewhat smart individual (hey, you bought this book, so you might even be a genius!) so you already know something about Munzee or you would not have spent money on this booklet. What you are probably looking for is an easy way to explain Munzee to your friends, family, or that nice police officer who is watching you so intently.

I describe Munzee as a hunting game with a smart phone. I hunt for cards or stickers with codes that get me points in the hunt. I don't shoot anything, other than photos, and I don't even have to go into the woods unless I want to.

If friends express more interest, I tell them that looking for Munzees helps me find the favorite restaurants of others, parks that I didn't know were there, and gives me a little exercise as a bonus.

A Munzee is, at the core, a QR (Quick Response) code that someone has activated to link it to a physical location on the Earth. It may be placed as simply a QR code only and taped to the back of a pole at a rest area, or it could be a fancy metal dog tag that Munzee.com sells in their store. Either way, the point is that this code is “scannable” with your smartphone. And once you scan it, you get points or even a special prize like a free hamburger. One man even won a MacBook in a contest!



A QR code can contain different types of information. The sample on the right has the author's email address and if you scan it from the book, even in the e-book version on your screen, you can e-mail me. With Munzee, the QR contains information that takes the Munzee hunter to the webpage for that Munzee. In the app, it will check with the GPS and validate that you are standing at the right spot and have found the code. Here come your points now...

When describing Munzee, many people will say “It's like Geocaching without the _____” and the blank is filled by various words like “container” or “log book” or “swag.” But there are other differences and we should talk about them. Geocaching requires a physical container, but Munzees also require a physical card with a code, most of the time.

One difference is that members can place Virtual Munzees which have no printed code. This is handy for when you cannot place a geocache or Munzee card near something beautiful or photogenic like a waterfall (or ugly but difficult, like a bridge or government building). You can purchase the privilege of a virtual Munzee from the Munzee Store. We will talk more about this later.



I love geocaching. Let me say that first. Especially I like the searching. But placing a geocache can require hours or even days of planning, buying a container, gathering good things to hide in it, water-proofing the log book, getting permission from land owners, then placing the cache location on the website for approval.

I find that I can create a Munzee on my computer, print it, laminate it (more later) and deploy it within the same day. If I were in a hurry, I could probably do it within an hour if the deployment site were close. Once you have the Munzee ready, it's a snap to deploy it. If I have pre-printed it or purchased one from the Munzee store, I can just pull it out of my wallet, stick it to a pole, scan it, and it is deployed in mere seconds.

I seem to be a bad judge of distance and try to place geocaches too near another person's geocache (less than 500 feet) and that's a no-no. Because of this, I have two caches which were never approved. Munzee allows you to place codes within 50 feet (15 meters) of another person's Munzee, which is more easily estimated. In the past, this rule wasn't enforced, but being too close was looked down upon by all civilized Munzee hunters. However, you must put 150 feet (about 50 meters) between your **own** Munzees. It could get a little confusing if there are six QR codes taped to the same flagpole. And it would not be much fun either.

No other approval is needed from the website; the app handles all of that. If you are placing them on private property you should probably still get permission from the landowner. Or at least be respectful in how you place it. I prefer using magnets in some spots so if someone gets offended they can remove my Munzee easily (this also makes it easier for others to remove, scan, and replace in tight spots).

I like that all I need to hunt a Munzee is my phone, it makes it very easy and spontaneous. And although you can go geocaching using just your smartphone, I have not found that experience to be as pleasant as doing it with a dedicated GPS. Again, that might just be Uncle Karl being weird again. Although "Aunt Donna" doesn't like the caching phone app much either and keeps asking why I didn't bring the GPS with me....

I still love caching and go at least once per week. And I love Munzee. I love them for different reasons, and sometimes for the same reasons. They are both journeys of discovery. I have found new places and I have also discovered some things about life and myself.

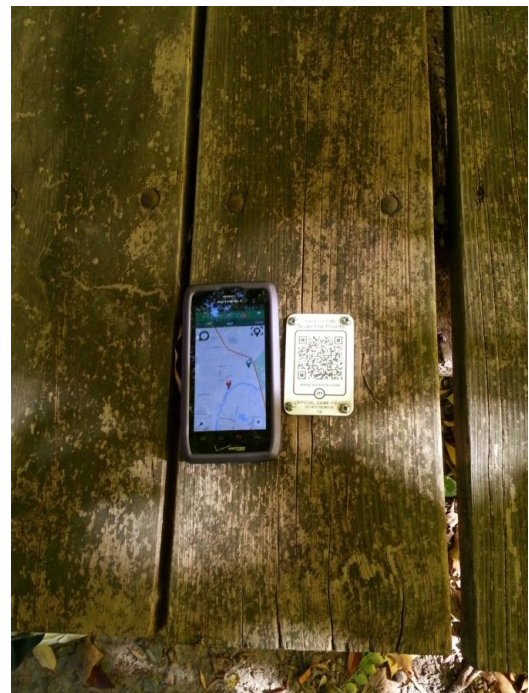


Photo: A metal Munzee has been permanently affixed to a wooden picnic table at a little park in Indiana.

Becoming a member

Uncle Karl is anti-social sometimes. He gives great tech advice happily through books and e-mail, but he shuns actual people in the flesh. Maybe he's afraid of germs. Maybe he's just weird. Normally he is like Groucho Marx and would not belong to any club that would allow him to be a member. But the Munzee Hunt Club is a rare exception.

To join the Munzee Hunt Club, go to www.munzee.com and sign up for a free account. This does not obligate you to ever hide a Munzee, nor will you get a ton of email, nor will you give up your right to complain about the weather. It's simply that you will need a hunting name and password to keep everyone else out of your account.

You might be a creative type who makes up a great hunting name like *Runs With Beer* or *MunzMaster* or something cool like that. I just used KarlWitsman because, well, I'm creative over the long text but not great at naming things. It's probably why one of my cats was named Tabby.

Once you are signed up, you can search for, create, deploy, and print Munzees. You will find that there is a secret world, hidden within another dimension of the old world, with clever hides waiting behind that sign or in that bush. You will never be able to see the world the same again; you are forever changed. Sorry about that.

The Munzee Team swears that basic Munzee membership will always be free of charge. But if you really get into it, there is also the option of becoming a Premium Member. It's only \$30 a year and I spend more than that on cigars for a month! You probably spend more than that on lattes or Chai tea.

This is not only a way to help the developers to pay for server space, but you will get some perks as well. You will get a special Gold Munzee to hide, four virtual Munzees that you can place anywhere, and a special parking place. Oh, sorry, wait, you don't get the parking place. Uncle Karl got a little carried away there.

Once you have signed up, it's now time to download the app to your phone. You can do that with links on the Munzee.com website or look around for yourself. There is a free version both for the Apple iPhone in the iTunes store and the Android version of phones in the Google Play store. The Windows version was available in whatever they are calling their Marketplace this week. Are they even still open?

Other apps like GeoCheckPoint Finder and CacheSense in the Play store also offer some support for Munzees but they are linked more to other games. There is nothing as robust as the official Munzee app for hunting Munzees.



Oh, by the way, nobody else really calls it the "Munzee Hunt Club," that's my own invention. But I often wear jodhpurs and a deerstalker cap like Sherlock Holmes and shout "Tally-ho!" in a British accent when I find a QR code. Drives the beagles crazy!



Uncle Karl finds a Munzee tag in a tree.



My referral code. It gives you 50 points and then I get a few points if you keep playing. Please, keep playing. Heh heh heh. (This code will only scan if you have scanned fewer than 10 other Munzees, so if it comes up an error, good for you!)

Types of Munzees



Regular Munzees (green) are what you will chase most of the time. You get 10 points for deploying one and you and the hunter each get 10 points when it is captured. They might just be the QR code or they might include the green background. If someone gets fancy, they might look different, just because they are regular Munzees doesn't mean that they will be boring and ordinary.



Mystery Munzees (blue) are a little odd. They are like a slot machine, giving out varying amounts of points, depending on how they feel. Some people will get 3 points; some will get up to 35. Some lucky souls might even get 50 points! Be nice to the Mystery Munzee and perhaps, just perhaps, the Mystery Munzee will be nice to you. They are purchased through the Munzee Store and only available during certain times. They sell out almost immediately. Think Cabbage Patch dolls (if you are old enough to remember the Cabbage Patch Riots), but without getting poked in the eye and the bruised ribs. The owner of a Mystery gets points at the time of deployment and points when they get captured by others, but since they are highly prized, they will be captured more than other Munzees.

In the field, you might see some blue stickers that are about an inch square. Those are the older ones. There is a newer Mini-Mystery Munzee and the point structure is a little better for the deployer. You might even see white stickers or something that the deployer printed at home that represents the mystery. These are usually replacements for torn or worn Mystery Munzees. They don't have to be blue. There isn't a rule about it.



Special Munzees are indeed special. The typical scenario is that a special event occurs, like when Munzee turned a year old, or a hamburger restaurant sponsored some Munzees. Suddenly, a hundred or more regular Munzees, in the tree or on a post awaiting capture, became Special and the next hunter who captured that Munzee won a burger or a cake or a MacBook. WOW! That is pretty special.

But most of these will just reward you with up to 50 points instead of the usual amount. That might be the best prize of all. The owner of the Munzee gets the regular amount of points, but since more hunters are heading for these, he or she will get more captures than usual during the period. So, there is a bonus for the deployer too! After the first capture, though, the Munzee will revert to normal so be the first to catch it after it becomes Special. You cannot capture your own Munzee, even when it "goes special." That would just be cheating. (Except in some special cases).

Another bonus is that a Special Munzee can be scanned for the points even if you have previously found that Munzee. If you scan it after someone else got it, though, you will get the sad buzzer to let you know that you've capped (slang for captured) this code already. Next time you'll know to grab breakfast on the run, Pokey!

There was also an Easter Egg Munzee once that gave anywhere from 0 to 50 points. The ones that gave no points were called "rotten eggs" by the hunters. All Special Munzees also give you a pretty icon to collect.

Specials come out around holidays and special charity events, so just be ready for just about anything at any time! You may not realize that it's a holiday in another country and there is a special out that week.



Gold is a very special Munzee. Only premium members can get one and then only one per year that you are premium. In the old days, you got the little badge on the right. Oh, the joyous day that your little golden badge arrived in the mail! Sadly, now you just get a credit that you can apply to a regular Munzee. The gold Munzee garners you 50 points at deployment, 10 points when someone captures it and the hunter gets 10 points, so everybody wins! However, this prize is so pretty that many don't want to expose it to the elements or the possibility that someone will take it. What to do!?!



little

Some have found ways to print another version of it or to place it in a way that it is protected. I used an online QR code printing service to create a printed one and saved my little star. I can take out My Precious and look at it anytime I like. The QR printing service is listed in the back of this book for those interested.

One note: the metal badges were difficult to scan with some cameras. Argh! If you find an old one, just keep working at it, it's worth it.



Virtual Munzees (whitish) don't really exist. Well, they do exist, but they don't. Basically, there is no code or card at the deployment site. Instead you must go to within 300 feet of where the deployer placed it on the map and use the Capture icon within the Munzee app.

These are handy for placing where a regular Munzee would not be allowed or would be a possibly unwelcome intrusion. I think that Munzee QR codes are beautiful, but I'm biased. The people at the Washington Monument might not share my opinion. Since Virtuals (called Virts for short) can be placed anywhere from my office chair, I have one in Chicago, California, and Australia. I have also used three of them to honor folks who were in my life but have now passed away.

Deploying a Virtual is easy, just go online and choose your Virtual Munzee from your undeployed group and give it a name, then drop the pin on the map where you want it. You can move it around a little before it is captured but once the first person finds it, you can only tweak it within a 500-foot radius of that first find. That way, only one person must fall off that cliff that you failed to mention...after that, you might need to move it a little.

You get 5 or more points for deploying a Virtual and you and the hunter each get 3 or more points when it is captured. And now you can pay a little extra to add some color to your Virtual. See the Munzee Store for details.

Virtuals can now be deployed from the app, but only near the place where you are standing. This is handy if you find a beautiful spot in-person and want to commemorate it, but a physical Munzee might not be appropriate.

One version of the Virtual is the Flat Rob. Flat Robs are only available to buy, deploy, and/or capture when Munzee President Rob (Coach V) is out of the office. You will probably see them mostly at Munzee events and festivals. Similarly, the Flat Matt is available only when Matt is out of the office, usually at a sporting event or Munzee event. The schedule is announced on the Munzee blog at Munzee.com. There is now even a Flat Daniel for the Main Munzee Support Guy and a Flat Louise to honor the Munzee Events Coordinator (more about events later!).



Maintenance Mode (yellow with exclamation) is a special status for other types of Munzees. If the last two hunters report that they could not find or scan a Munzee, this mode will go on automatically. Now the person who placed it can go fix it without having to disable it. This is handy because maybe you just hid it too well and those two Munzers (Munzee players) just didn't see it. If your Munzees are magnetic, like a few of mine, some helpful person may have just put it back in the wrong spot.

The deployer can go scan it, proving that it is still there or replace or fix it. If the owner decides not to return to the deployment area within a month, the service might disable the Munzee. During the mode, any other hunter should be able to scan the Munzee; it isn't taken off the playing field. If someone else scans it, that also serves as a validation that the Munzee is still alive out there. Those first two guys must have just not seen it.



Diamond Munzee is special. These cost \$5 each, but they give more points and a special icon to collect. Each time a hunter scans this, 20 points are split between the hunter and the hider. But to make it even more exciting, this point assignment is random, so you never know how many points you will get. More jewels are being added too. You can get Amethysts, Rubies, etc. Check out the website for more information.



Another type is the Munzee Motel. These are like one of those multi-level marketing schemes where you must buy a lot of soap or cosmetics then get your friends to become salespeople on your "upstream". If you place a Munzee Motel, you get some points and more points every time others capture it. But it also has rooms to rent. The first person to capture the Munzee gets the best room, and they get points for every capture thereafter too! The second person gets a room, but they get fewer points than the person in Room 1. And so on for 5 rooms. After that, there's no vacancy, but the Munzee can still be captured. This is a way to almost have multiple Munzees on the same light pole! The Munzee Motel costs a little bit, and Munzers can only buy 5 per month, to keep it special. If there was a Munzee Motel on every corner, keeping track of your points would be a nightmare.

Following this, Munzee Hotels appeared. These will let 10 people get in on the business. The newest addition is the Resort, a virtual which must be placed in person, and has rooms for 15 people to occupy. You must be at the site where you want the Resort to deploy it.

Of course, not everyone wants to stay in a motel or hotel, oh no. Some people prefer the timeshare model, so there is a Munzee Timeshare. Check into one of these and you have the room for a month. Anyone checking in after you for that month will get you some points. But once your month is up, you forfeit your room. So, go check in again! Yep, this is a sweet deal for everyone.



The Social Munzee is locationless. This can be purchased in the Munzee store or you get one when you are a Premium Member. This Munzee can be customized to include your photo or a drawing and then printed or posted online, something that is forbidden for other Munzees. And it is location-less, meaning that it can be scanned anywhere in the world! This is for your nametag at events, for a card in the window of your car, or on your business card. There are no points awarded, but it is exciting to see the little photos and drawings accumulate on your Social tab on the Munzee website. And I get notifications like “Greetings from Sweden” and made friends with someone in Germany

when we traded Social Munzees online. Mine is shown here to get you started.

Another type of location-less Munzee is the Personal Munzee. These are either made into a keychain, dog tag or name tag. They can be deployed at events or just about anywhere, and multiple times up to three times a day. For something like 12 hours, that tag can be scanned within a mile of the deployment site. So, if you go to an event, you can easily find people wearing them and scan the tags anywhere along the event area as the day goes on. Still, it’s no excuse to be late! Personal Munzees are available through authorized resellers so check on the Munzee website, www.munzee.com/retail (or later in this book) for a listing of them.



Trail Munzees are the answer to those who want to get away from all the parking lots and lamp posts and signs. You can place the first part of a trail on a tree, then over the better part of 5 miles you can put out the other 4 Munzees in your trail. The finder of the first clue will NOT see your 2nd, 3rd, etc. Munzees until they cap the first one, then the second appears, likewise, for the others until they finish your trail.

Evolution Munzees: These are Munzees that start life in one form, then with a certain amount of time or captures, they morph into other forms. It starts as a calf becomes a cow and eventually the icon will change to a gallon of milk. You can capture that Munzee during every stage, giving you three captures on one Munzee. There are a growing number of Evolution Munzees, so you might see horses, farmers,

tractors, submarines, even dinosaurs out there. Scan them quickly because next month they will change into something else, but this allows you to scan them again. Sweet!

Another type of evolving Munzee is the Seasons Munzee. If one is deployed in the Autumn, it shows up as a yellow-brown leaf and you can scan it. Later it will become a Winter Munzee and you can scan it again. Same with Spring and Summer. You can hit it four times, then that's all. But isn't that enough for anyone? And the deployer could eventually get four times as many cap-on points from that Munzee as a regular Munzee.

There might be other icons out there. Munzee is always adding new surprises for us. And Specials are not just hearts. Sometimes they appear as shamrocks, cakes, pumpkins, and a host of other disguises. I was honored when two of my Munzees were turned into candy corn for Halloween 2012. Another one became a cupcake for 12 hours.

During the 2014 FIFA Football season, a bunch of regular Munzees were turned into bouncing soccer balls (footballs to the rest of the world).

There are also charity specials which have raised up to \$50,000 and more for various good causes. If you see one, cap it to get a Special icon in your corral. But more importantly, buy one or two (or ten) and place them. The money for such special Munzees goes entirely to the charity.

And lastly...

The other icon that you are sure to see is a red pin with a checkmark in it. This means that you have already captured that Munzee. Nothing to see there. Keep moving!



Without a Munzee nearby, I never would have accidentally found this tribute to soldiers killed in the Middle East. I found the name of my cousin, Joshua Witsman, on one of the monuments. The tribute is in Marseilles, Illinois, along the river. Thanks to whomever brought me here.

Spreading it around

Some of the new special types of Munzees are worthy of mentioning in their own section. When you cap one of these, some temporary specials can splash out to nearby (within two miles) Greenie Munzees.



Fire Munzees are special mystery Munzees. They could give out a lot of points OR you could get burned and lose 5 points. But don't worry, because if you get burned a few times you even get a badge for it. The badge honors one of our fire-fighter Munzee brethren. The Fire Mystery also shoots out three flames and sets other nearby Munzees on fire. (Letting you cap them again and get more stuff!) The first time we did one, we had part of our clan with us. I told Donna "Watch this. They just grabbed the Fire Munzee...now watch as they realize what just happened..." and then we raced them to the next flame. If you see one of these in a mall parking lot, first cap all the others, then grab the fire. Because now you can go back and re-cap a few of the Munzees that you JUST got points for earlier. Heh heh heh, Uncle Karl is crafty, yes. Fire Munzees will pull in Dragons sometimes. More will be written about Dragons in the Mythological chapter.

If you want to buy a Fire Mystery Munzee, you can only do it through authorized resellers or on the Munzee website.



Like the Fire Munzees are Ice Munzees. These puppies can give you points or they can freeze you and you can't scan another Munzee for two or three minutes. At least there is a badge for getting frozen a few times, so it's not all loss. And Ice Munzees attract the Yeti. Again, more on this in the Mythological chapter.



This was followed by the Earth Munzee, which puts the Recycle icon on certain greenies that you have already capped, so you can cap them again. More points! These are usually Munzees that nobody has capped for a little while. These draw the Faun mythological.



The Water Munzee is similar, splashing nearby Munzees. Bring a hat and a towel. Some water droplets bring life and help you build up your score. Some are poison. Poison is not good. At least there's a badge for getting "killed" in this manner. Water Munzees will draw in the Hydra mythological Munzees.



An Air Munzee is a virtual which creates feathers when you cap it. They don't always land on other Munzees, though, sometimes they will appear in the middle of a lake. Good luck with that.

All the temporary Munzees that are spawned by these types only last for two hours, so don't dawdle!

The Munzee App and Finding a Munzee

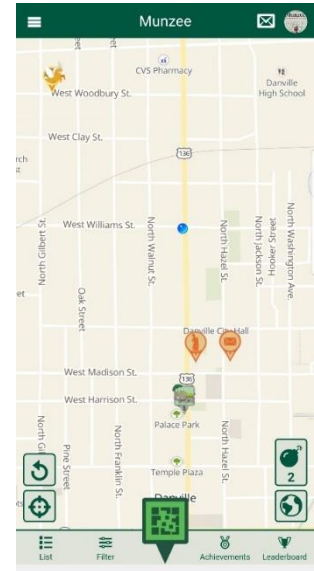
To capture a Munzee, first you will need to find one. You can see the general location of a Munzee on the website map at www.munzee.com, so you will know which city to drive to, but then the fun comes into play. You will need to get to that location and hunt in that area to find the code and scan it with your phone. All while appearing to be a normal citizen, taking a photo of the back of a sign, without getting arrested. **No pressure!**

As I mentioned, I use the Android version of the app, so my screenshots are going to be different somewhat from the iPhone application. But the iPhone and Android work pretty much the same. Both the apps will do the same things: allow you to find, place, and capture Munzees.

An app is just a software application, or program, that runs on your smartphone and lets you do a specific thing. Munzee hunting uses several apps in the pursuit of points. First, there is the Munzee app itself which signs you in, lets you hunt, deploy, see rankings, etc.

Then that app uses the GPS and mapping apps in your phone to find you and plot your location on the map and show your distance from the Munzee that you've chosen to hunt.

If you try to save battery by turning off the GPS during the day, you just need to know that it will take a while to lock on again when you are ready for your hunt. You might have lots of battery, but you lose valuable hunt time.



Finally, the app calls up the camera or bar code scanner to capture the Munzee before heading back to the Munzee app to transmit your results via cell carrier to Munzee Headquarters (MHQ) where your points are awarded. If for some reason, you get an alarming buzz and your phone shakes, you might have an error condition. Perhaps the scanner wasn't ready, or you are too far away from the Munzee.

One time, things were acting up and the app told me that I was over 300 feet away from the Munzee. The poor little phone was buzzing and shaking like crazy. It happened on three different Munzees that day. To this day, I don't know if it was an error in the Munzee app or the GPS system. There were several weeks in 2012 when a new cell phone company was testing on a frequency too near the GPS radio bandwidth and people complained that it interfered with GPS reception in certain parts of the country. That company is now bankrupt. That'll teach 'em!¹

¹ Wikipedia has a short but informative piece on LightSquared™, the company in question.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LightSquared> We feel badly for the employees of this corporation, but it serves as a warning to others who don't do proper testing. It's dangerous to interfere with systems like GPS upon which we have all grown dependent for many vital aspects of our life; like an ambulance finding you after a car crash, firing missiles at the right target, and Munzee hunting.

If you are placing a new (deploying) a Munzee when you get the error buzz or message, you might be less than 50 feet away from another Munzee. Or at least your phone thinks that you are too close. One thing to remember is that even if you pace it off and you know that you are further than 50 feet, GPS technology for civilians and cell phones is only accurate to within 30 feet most of the time. This is not the fault of the Munzee app. **You might also be near Virtual or even a secret, invisible Virtual Munzee that only shows part of the time. (Flat Robs, Flat Matts or part of a Munzee Trail)** Just try to deploy somewhere else. Don't get too upset by it.

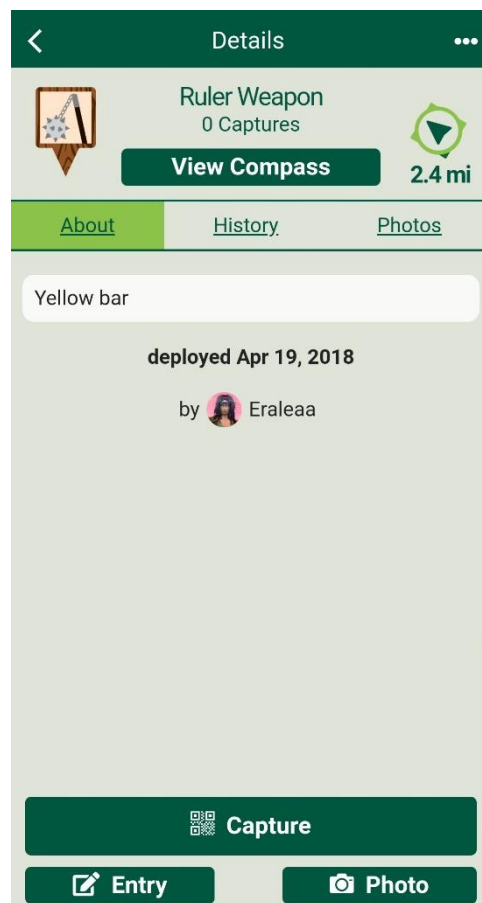
Also, recall this when hunting Munzees and you assume that the Munzee is lost, you might be 30 feet away from it just due to GPS error. Therefore, deployers really need to use that clue space on the deployment screen. Munzees are a small thing to be searching for in a radius of error that large. Therefore, clues are very important. If you look at the Details section on the app, the clues are invaluable.

Maybe you don't want your phone to shimmy and shake like Elvis after ten cups of coffee when there is an error? Go into your phone's Settings menu and turn off the Haptic Feedback, if you have it. That will put it into Decaf Mode. OK, it's not officially called that, only I call it that.

The main screen of Munzee is the Map Screen. There are two basic ways to hunt for Munzees, with the map or in the list of nearby Munzees. You will automatically see the map, but if you are looking for one code, you can access the Nearby Munzee screen by touch the 'hamburger menu' and choosing it from the resultant menu. (The hamburger menu is the three horizontal bars on the top left. I suppose that someone thought it looked like a hamburger in a bun.) Now you are looking at a listing of the closest Munzees.

Touch any of the Munzees listed to see more information about that Munzee. (see illustration on the right) Or if it didn't refresh automatically, swipe down with your finger to refresh it on Android.

Imagine my chagrin when I first started playing and the closest Munzee showed that it was over 80 miles away! That might happen to you too, but don't give up. The map is growing every day.





Another thing to remember is that if you have a Filter on, then you will only see whatever the filter allows to show on either Map or Munzee Detail page. Don't get upset if something isn't there, check your Filter. More on this later.

From here I will click on a Munzee to read about it. This takes me to the Munzee Details page. There is plenty here to read, including when it was last found, etc. Photos can be added to Munzees and viewed. This could be helpful for well-hidden Munzees or just to show others where people have abandoned their shoes for some inexplicable reason.

We also found a broken cell phone sitting under a Munzee once. Maybe it just wouldn't scan, and frustration got the better of the hunter? Let's hope not.

If you already arrived at the site of the Munzee, the big icon in the bottom middle of the map (or at the bottom of the Munzee Detail Page) is your Capture button. Touch it and the scanning window opens. Point it at the Munzee, get close enough to scan, and watch those points add up. You'll even hear that lovely "Ding" that Munzers so love to hear. If you touch on a Munzee icon to see more information about it, the Capture button might change shape. If it is a physical sticker, the box is square. If it is a Virtual Munzee, it will be round. In this case, just get within 300 feet of it and touch the Capture button. Job done! If it's physical, start looking for a sticker somewhere.

A button shaped like a globe on the right of the Map toggles between a street map and a satellite view of the area, as well as a hybrid which shows both. Just keep tapping the same icon. This is handy for determining exactly which tree that Munzee might be hanging in. **Sweet!** Or for finding out that there indeed was a tree here in 2011 and it has since been taken out to build a parking lot. **Not so sweet!**

There is also the crosshair icon (bottom left) which centers the map on your location. This is handy if, like me, you are always scrolling your map around and now you are lost and want to find where you are. Tap and hold on the crosshair for a second or two and the map will track you a little faster. The crosshair will turn red. Your data plan will be chomped down faster, along with your battery, so use this sparingly. Tap and hold again to turn it off.

If you cannot see the Munzee you are hunting, pinch the screen to zoom out and do the opposite of a pinch to zoom in. If you are trying to do it one-handed, you can double-tap and then drag up to zoom



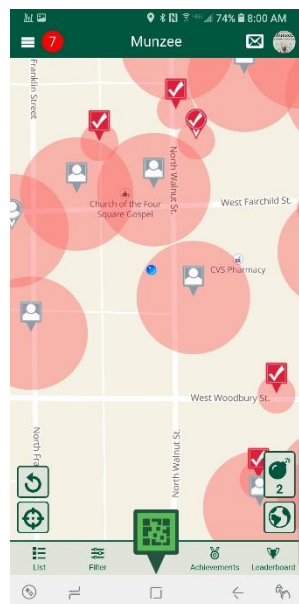
out on the map. Double-tap and drag down on the second tap to zoom in. This takes some practice, I still fling my map around and I've been playing with it for years. It's still not safe to do while driving, of course.

Just above it is the Refresh button, in case your data isn't loading correctly.

When we look at the whole Map screen, we see the map, obviously, plus a little blue circle. That's me! Close to me is a Munzee. Sadly, I placed this Munzee, so I cannot capture it, but that's only fair. What fun is it to search for something when you know where it's hidden? If it were someone else's Munzee, it would show a different icon, a little green marker with a white M in it.

Your deployed Munzees will be those little grey things.

If it isn't your Munzee, tap the little icon and more info appears, including a compass and distance info. I don't find this compass too useful, so sometimes you must just start walking around and you can see if you are getting closer or further away. North is set to the top of the screen, so I need to walk east to get closer to the Munzee in this photo.



If you have already found and captured a Munzee, it will be shown in red. At times when the GPS satellites can't find me, like when I step under a tree, the circle around my blue dot gets bigger to show the uncertainty that the GPS has for my location. But that is when I will look at the map (recall that north is at the top) and I can see another Munzee nearby. Let's say that the Munzee that I want now is north of the one that I found, and between myself and the road shown on the map, this gives me a hint as to where I need to travel. This was how we had to hunt most Munzees before we got the Compass function. So, I need to go west a little bit until my circle is right on the Munzee pin. Just

a few more feet now... **Tally ho!**

Uncle Karl's Rules

Karl's First Rule: Even if it's not on your map, or your map isn't updating, walk to the nearest lamp post. If there is a Munzee there, scan it. If not, deploy one there.

Karl's Second Rule: If you can see it on your map, you can cap it. If you can't, then you can't cap it. This refers mostly to special things landing on your own Munzee. You can see leprechauns, unicorns, dragons, and even yeti on the map, even when on your Munzees, so you can scan those. Birthday cakes, presents, eggs, or whatever else you may not see. You cannot scan them on your own Munzees. Sorry.

Capturing a Munzee

Capturing the Munzee with the app is usually the easiest part of the job. Once you find the QR code, look at your Munzee app, which probably helped you to get here already. Point your camera toward the Munzee. Then find the icon in the middle of the map that looks like a big M in a green location icon and tap it. Now your phone takes a scan of the Munzee and should report back to MHQ (Munzee Headquarters). You will be verified as having been in the right place at the right time with the right code and you will get some points. Way to go! Now on to the next Munzee, remember it is all about the numbers. And the hunt. And the exercise. But mostly the numbers. Most Munzers aren't in it for clever hides and puzzles; we want to out-score our friends and/or our scores from last year.

If, for some reason, the code doesn't scan don't just give up. My old phone sometimes would not scan until I shut it down completely and then re-boot it. Then I open the Munzee app and it works like a charm. Darn Motorola Droid! My newer Samsung Galaxy S III would scan codes if I waved it in the air anywhere within ten feet of the Munzee. (OK, not really, but it did scan much better than the old phone.) My S5 just had to be within a block of the Munzee and my Galaxy S8 senses the presence of Munzees using the Force... OK, that is not true. I am getting silly now. Suffice it to say that technology, and the Munzee app, is getting better all the time.

You can use the front-facing camera of the phone, if you have one, and that works better for scanning underneath water fountains and benches, as you can see where you are pointing on the screen. Very handy. It saved me crawling on the ground under a bench just last week. I love that feature. The icon for it is on the right (Android). On the left is a flashlight that gives you a little light for those 5 AM runs



that you will eventually make. And yes, you will make them.

After the scan, perhaps you might want to write a journal note for the find. I like to do this for some Munzees because I like to read notes when others find my Munzees, so I am extending the same courtesy to them. I like to at least say something simple like "Thanks!" especially if it was a special Munzee or placed in a unique way.

If you don't find the Munzee, or you wish to leave a different comment, select the Munzee from the map. Now

look at the top and tap on the description shown to open a box with even more information. At the top right is a menu where you can leave an entry for the deployer and check on Rovers (more on this later). To make a journal entry, you can select Unable to Find or Needs Repair from the drop-down menu as needed. You can also choose General; if you just want to let the other Munzee player know something. You need to find at least 15 or 20 Munzees before you can report one as missing. And you must be within 300 feet of the Munzee that you are reporting, or it will not work. This stops a lot of nasty shenanigans from occurring. What a panic if ALL Munzees got reported as missing all at once?

Don't be too proud; report the ones that you don't find. Perhaps it is gone, and the owner will want to run out and check on it. If you find the tape or twist tie that obviously used to hold the Munzee, use

the Needs Repair log. I like to mention exactly what I found “Found sticky area where tape was holding Munzee” so the hider will know for sure that it is gone and not just think I’m a knucklehead who couldn’t be bothered to look well enough.

Working without a net

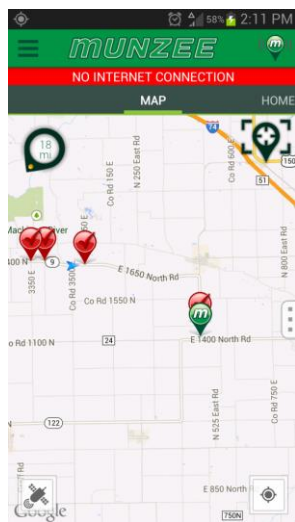
For those without a data plan, well, you guys must like money more than fun. I mean, who doesn’t want to plunk down tons of money every month to have the whole of the Interwebz at their fingertips every single moment of the day? Oh, that many people? OK, you can put your hands down now.

For you, there is an offline mode too. It is called the Offline Queue. This is great for those without a data plan because the app records the code and your geolocation, puts it in a queue (like being in line) then it transmits back to MHQ later when you get into Wi-Fi range again.

Perhaps you are using a tablet with a camera but no phone service, or an old smartphone that you take knocking about for Munzee and geocaching and you don’t want to use your good phone in the mud. The offline mode is perfect for you.

After you have scanned or deployed, go to the triple-line menu bar at the top left and look for Offline Queue. There will be see the list of items waiting to be reported. Once back in the civilized world, swipe left on each item and tell it to Process. If you got the same Munzee three times, swipe left and choose Delete to get rid of it. Just be careful, there is no Undelete here.

Another use for this might be if someone placed a Munzee in an area where they could get a data



signal, but your carrier doesn’t have any towers there. The offline mode would be your rescue. Look at the map of the desired area while you are still in an area with Wi-Fi or cell signal. Turn off the screen, if you need to, but don’t close the Munzee app. Then the map will still show you the Munzees when you are out of range.

Of course, if you didn’t get a signal, then your GPS might not be able to pinpoint the exact location of the Munzee and you are now lost, but hey, someone will come along someday and find you. Just don’t eat the red berries while you are waiting. Just teasing! The GPS would still function; the phone just wouldn’t be able to use the cell phone network to give you better accuracy. I still stick with the advice about not eating the red berries, though.

NOTE: The weekend that we got the 10K badge and used Google Maps all day, we barely used 1GB of data between the two of us on our plan. So Munzee is not as bad on the data as some might think.

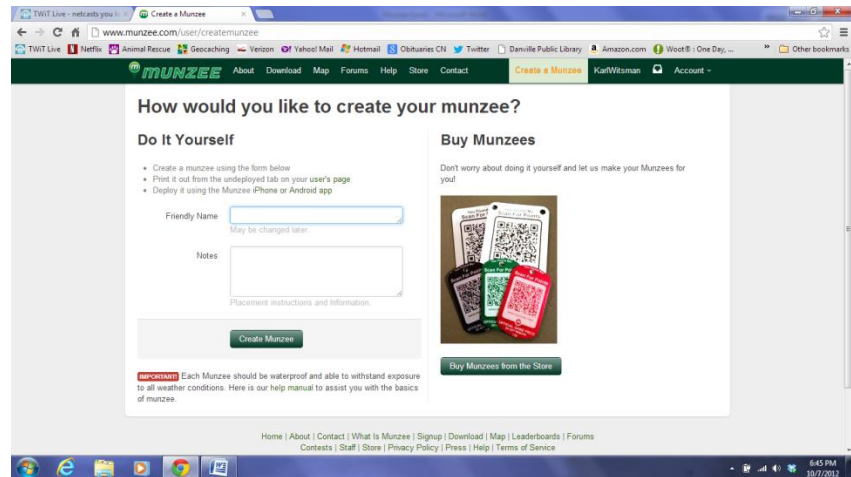
And yes, that screengrab is from the old app. I haven’t had the inclination to leave civilization yet for another screenshot. Ha!

Creating a Munzee

So now you have been on a hunt and captured a few Munzees. Congratulations! Now you are thinking of going that next step and placing your own Munzee. Excellent!

Before you can place a Munzee, you will need to create one from the website. Up at the top of your profile page, you will find big orange words “Create a Munzee.” Clicking here will bring up a page where you can give your Munzee a Friendly Name that others will see and notes and clues for the hunters of your code.

Remember that you WANT people to find your Munzee, it’s not a contest to hide it from everyone. If your hide is really clever then you might want to give people a big clue here. But don’t fret on it too much now because you will get a chance to change the name and clue later.



I use this feature by naming Munzees “Generic1” and “Generic2” then I can place them anywhere. Then I carry these in my vehicle along with some magnets and glue. If I find a cool spot to drop a Munzee, I scan and deploy the code and then put in a name that matches the site and edit the clue appropriately. Hey, it’s just a tip from your friendly Uncle Karl. Aren’t you glad that you invested in this book?

If you ever create a Munzee and you don’t want to deploy it, or you have a live Munzee in the wild and want to disable it (I don’t like the term “disable” for this usage), you can archive it. That way, you keep all your points for that Munzee and anyone who scanned it will keep their points too. Let’s play nice, everyone.

For those who don’t want to create, print, laminate, and all that fun stuff, you can buy specially made Munzees from the Munzee store that will last through most any weather. Some are hard plastic, and some are metal. One is even magnetic. The new vinyl Munzees are super! They stick to almost everything and I always carry some in my wallet.



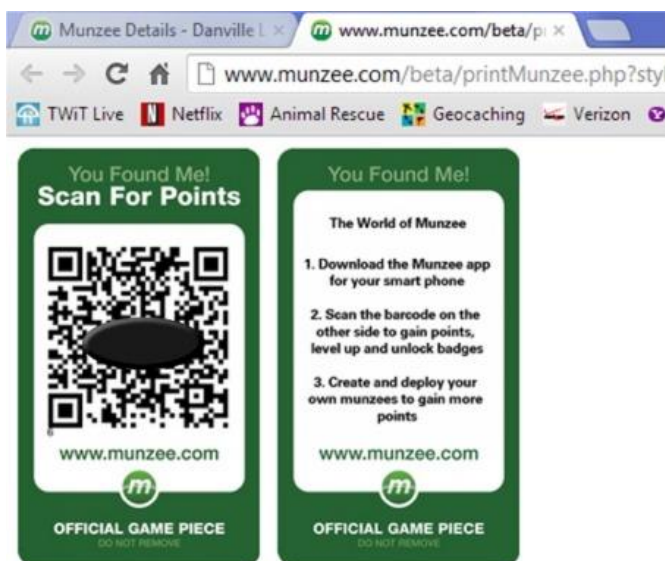
Munzee also have Munzee-branded clothing and I’m saving up any book profits so I can buy a Munzee jacket or hoodie. So, have you helped the Munzee cause already!

Printing

If you didn't buy a Munzee, that's OK. Many people love the DIY aspect of printing and modifying Munzees! Sometimes you just like to roll up your sleeves and do it all yourself. Once you have created your Munzee, you will want to print it. Most of the time, you will just go to your Undeployed tab of your Profile page and choose which Munzee to print.

You can also do a bunch of them and "batch print" them all. This will save paper by printing the Munzee codes all on one page. You can choose whether you want to print the instructions on the page too. This could be handy for some placements where there aren't a lot of Munzers out hunting yet but you want to encourage people to join. The instructions could be left to the side or folded over behind the code if you are laminating it and going to hang it somewhere.

But nothing in the rules says that you must print the instructions. Nor do you even have to print the green part, even though it is nice for recruitment and to make them easier for beginners to find. You can just print the QR code, as I've seen many people do, and then use packing tape to stick the code to posts, etc.



You could print a bunch of Munzee QR codes at once, but I usually advise discretion. Sure, you can print 80 codes and laminate them all, but do you really know 80 good spots to place them? I like to think about and plan my placements. Also, I don't like seeing a bunch of undeployed Munzees on my profile page, so I opt to only get three or four ahead.

Laminating and the weather are a big topic at the Munzee discussions. I buy 3 x 4-inch self-sealing laminating photo sheets from Wal-Mart. K-mart, or other sources.

These are like little pouches that you put the Munzee inside, and then you peel away a backing sheet. Push together the sticky part and it self-seals. Done correctly, water will not get in there, at least not for a long while. If you don't get it just right, seepage will find its way inside the lamination.

Someone advised me that I could get them cheaper by buying the larger sheets and cutting them down, but since I don't like to get ahead too many Munzees, I like to just do them as I print them, and the smaller size is very easy to work with. If I had to cut up larger sheets, that would make it more like work and less fun. And obviously, my friend has never witnessed me trying to cut in a straight line. Let's just say that it's not pretty.

Besides, they aren't very expensive at all, especially when I think that an ammo can for hiding a geocache could cost \$7 or more and here I am getting enough laminating sheets for five or more Munzees for \$2.50. Cheap!

If you decide to punch holes in the laminated ones, make sure that your hole goes through only the plastic part. If it goes too close to the paper, you will get leakage from rain, melting snow, and humidity. I have gone out of my way to slog through 200 feet of muddy grass just to get to a Munzee on a fence only to find that the code was not readable with my phone. The hole made to attach it to the fence had leaked water inside and ruining the Munzee. And the mud had leaked water into my shoes, ruining my day. Not a happy camper!

Munzpak

I mentioned buying Munzees in the Munzee Store, but you can also get them in the mail with the Munzpak subscription service. For \$15 a month, you get regular and special Munzees shipped to your door and sometimes a credit to your account for Virtuals and even more special things.

Munzee HQ always put in more than \$15 worth of stuff, when you compare to the prices in the store, and Munzpak subscribers get new Munzee types before everyone else. If you really get into the game, this is another avenue to get your game pieces without having to print and laminate them.

If you really get into Virtual Munzees, there is also a Virtual Munzpak, but it is more expensive.



Placing (Deploying) a Munzee

One of the big sayings in the Munzer Community is "Grow the map." This means that everyone is responsible for placing a Munzee or two out there. You don't HAVE to, but it's nice if you did. It's one of those things where if you build it, they will come. Or they might come if you DON'T build it. Don't let someone else from another town lay claim to the best spots in your neighborhood. Although the rules are set up so that nobody "owns" an area, don't you think that a local person, and especially you, should be the first to place some Munzees around your own town?

This was why I was hot to get out and place the first Munzees in my county and my city. I saw another player (Sandfarmer) getting closer and closer to my town and when he placed one on the Indiana/Illinois border, it pushed me into action. I got the first Munzee in Danville (Illinois) placed within a day. I had placed another one previously, in someone else's town, so I was really slacking as far as Danville went. I owe Sandfarmer a debt of gratitude for compelling me to get off my behind and place that Munzee.

Of course, who really cares who is first to place? All we care about is that people are out there placing Munzees in both great and dull spots. We hope that they are all fantastic placements, but they don't have to be.

Stop looking for the perfect placement for your first Munzee. This is what kept me from placing a Munzee in my own town; I wanted it to be the best possible place, a spectacular placement which would impress everyone who visited it. Basically, I was thinking in geocaching terms, where poor placements might be ridiculed or ignored by certain of the fussier cachers. They aren't all like that, just a few. Munzee is not like that, almost everyone appreciates the points and the placements, no matter how boring the place.



Some areas are rather slow to grow the map. Right now, the sport is so new that some people are lucky to find one Munzee in their whole county and must travel a long way to capture one. They will appreciate your placement, no matter where it might be (as long as it's not too dangerous or near a school). In my own county, there used to be no other Munzees except the ones that I placed so I had to do much of my Munzee hunting while on business trips.²

You will collect points for placing Munzees. You also get points every time someone scans your Munzee, so you want them to be found. We find a balance between placing them where Munzers can find them but also hidden well enough that the un-initiated don't find them and throw them away. But even if they do, it's easy enough to replace any that are in your home area. Read more about this later when I give a real-life example. The point right now is not to fret if your Munzee goes missing.

² Last night, as I was editing this, Treasurehunter11 drove by on a trip or vacation and dropped four new Munzees within six miles of my town. Thanks! Of course, now Eraleaa has also helped in this situation greatly.

Munzees are temporary. They will fade in the sun, get wet, get stolen, get taken down by passersby, etc. Just take it as a chance to replace that Munzee with a better-constructed one next trip.

Of course, if you place one that goes against your local rules and laws, don't call Uncle Karl in the middle of the night to bail you out. Have fun but behave yourselves out there. And if someone asks what you are doing, I've found it best to tell them the truth and maybe turn them into Munzers. If they have a smartphone, have them scan the Munzee too. Heh, heh, heh, now they're hooked.

To deploy one of those Munzees that you printed, go to your deployment site, open the app on your phone and click the same icon on the map that you used to scan someone else's Munzee. It will take you to the scanning screen, so you want to...umm, yeah, scan it! Yep, it will scan it and figure out what to do. Or if the app cannot figure it out, it will ask you if you are capturing or deploying. This time, it's Deploy.

If you stay close to the placement area, your GPS will get the best accuracy, but you don't have to stand stock still. In fact, sometimes a little movement helps (even just rocking back and forth) the satellites triangulate on your location better. But don't worry much; you can fine tune this in a few minutes if you need to.

Most deployers like to place the Munzee first then try to scan it. If it doesn't scan for you then it won't scan for others. Avoid thin poles that bend the Munzee as they make them almost impossible to scan. Big, thick poles do this bending less.



After you have scanned the Munzee, you have a chance to move the pin and "fine tune" the Munzee pin's location on the map. I like to do this on the satellite map as I can really pinpoint which pole or tree contains my Munzee.

Move the pin on the map so that it shows exactly where you placed the Munzee. I find it easier to zoom in and then turn on the satellite view to do so. You can then name or re-name the Munzee and insert notes or clues to help other players to find your brilliant hide. You should get a "Munzee deployed" confirmation notice. In a few seconds, or after you do a refresh, a pin will show up on the app map where you just deployed your new Munzee! The map on the website only updates every six hours or so; don't freak out if you go home but don't see it on the website right away. Check for nearby Munzees on your phone and you will see it.

For Diamonds and Munzee Motels and others, another step is needed. After deploying, you will get a chance to convert the Munzee to either of these types. You can't do it from the app itself unless you are a Premium Member. You can also use the Zee app to do it, if you are not a Premium Member (see the end of the book for info). But helpful member JOK suggested this: if you use a self-made Munzee you can always convert before deploying, but for generics from the store, the easiest way is to deploy it, then leave a comment on it. Now check the email on your phone, use the link and get to admin tab to convert it that way. Nice! Keep in mind that you want to do this early as the option might not be

there once another Munzer captures your code. And I've had people find my Munzee within 15 minutes!

When it comes to hiding Munzees, you can use your creative side to place them. Remember that they are only hidden because the "hoi polloi" might find them and trash them out of ignorance of the game. There will always be people like that. We are hiding them from someone, but we want our fellow Munzee hunters to be able to locate them. They can be taped to things, stuck with magnets, or tied to something with string, small chains, or wires. So, they aren't really hidden.

I have a fun way of deploying both a Munzee and a geocache at the same time. I found this key hider fake rock at Menards on clearance for a dollar, but I'm sure that they are available elsewhere too. As you can see by the photos, I laminated the QR right onto the little plastic door and then taped around the outside to help keep out moisture. The interior of the rock is ready for my geocaching logbook and a little prize for the first finder. Both cachers and Munzers have commented on how much they liked my first such hide.



I carried this in my vehicle until I found the perfect spot where a rock would not be out of place, but not in a pile of hundreds of rocks. No need to be mean, is there? I now have two more sitting in the van, waiting for deployment. When I find the right locale, I deploy the Munzee via my phone and take careful GPS readings for the geocache. Then I drop the rock off and drive off home to log the geocache placement.

I call these placements my "two-fer" deployments, like "two for the price of one." I am not unique in this. Other geocachers have done similar things. And while you are allowed by Geocaching.com rules to place a Munzee in your own geocache, you cannot mention it in the cache description on the webpage.

Make sure to leave exact clues for the Munzee hunters, however. They will not be looking for something so hidden. I usually tell them exactly where to find the rock, what it looks like, and to look for the Munzee on the bottom. I still have them reported as missing, so don't be surprised if Munzers spend 30 seconds looking and then move along. As a reward, I've been putting Mystery Munzees on these placements as they are worth more and worth spending some time in a search.

The Munzee won't last long in the Illinois weather, so I have another rock ready to replace it later. If you are handy, you could also just make another plastic door, tape a re-printed Munzee to it, and replace it quickly and easily. I am so glad that the Munzee team has allowed for re-printing those Munzees that I've already deployed because I have already lost a few to weather-related hazards. If someone reports my Munzee damaged, I just print it out again and I am ready to fix it the next time I drive by.

NOTE: Uncle Karl now uses the pre-printed vinyl Munzees from the store for this as they are not affected by weather. Although I have had one of these fake rocks destroyed by a snowplow and another is currently buried under a pile of real rocks.

Just a reminder; please don't place a Munzee in someone else's geocache without permission. It's akin to walking into their home and hiding something. So please, don't do it without permission. Again, let's play nice together. We are all geolocation brothers and sisters. Hey, quit pulling that Foursquare user's hair!

You are virtually there

Note: New Virtuals have come out now, so yours might look different than those in the illustrations. Don't let it bother you. Cap them. Deploy them. Keep playing.

Method One: To do it from the phone, you must be within 500 feet from where you want to deploy it. It's easy, just open the map, hold down the Capture button for a little while, and a menu pops up to help you deploy one.

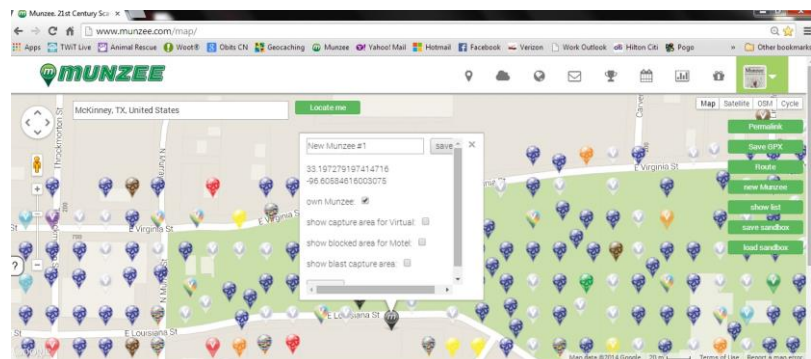
Method Two (the hard way): On your computer, go to your Profile, find the Undeployed tab. From your list, choose a virtual and choose Edit Location. If you don't see any Virtuals here, get over to the Munzee Store and buy some!



The placement screen will start you in the Atlantic Ocean near Latitude 0, Longitude 0. You can expand out the map and drag the Munzee where you want it or type in some coordinates. This is where the sandbox function comes in handy. But let's try it the visual way first.

Now drag the little icon closer to where you want it. Then zoom in to see that area better, drag, zoom, drag, and zoom. Every time you place it, try not to get it too close to anyone else's Munzee. Hard to do, isn't it? OK, now let's do it the easy way.

Method Three: Open the map on Munzee.com. Find where you want to place your Virtual. Click on Sandbox over on the right side of the map. Now down at the bottom of the map turn on the Circles. These circles show you where you are too close to another Munzee. Boy, would THAT be embarrassing. Find a white spot with the least amount of overlap (you might have to zoom very close in some cities). More options open on the right and then you can click New Munzee and drag it around. When you are happy with it, look at all the options in the little pop-up window and find Quick Deploy at the bottom. If you have a variety of different Virtual Munzees, the program will ask which type you want to place. Go for it. Just don't forget to rename it later when you are done.



The Show Circles command not only helps you avoid being too close to other Munzees, but you can see where the Blast Capture and regular capture radius will be for your Munzee. Some Munzees must have more room than others, so Motels will show a huge circle.

The only virtual that you cannot deploy on the computer is the Resort. You must be at the site to deploy one.

Other useful features in the app

Don't be afraid to touch or long-press just about anything on the app screen to find controls. You can also swipe down on any list to refresh it. And swiping left can do magic things at certain places in the app.

There are good additions for everyone and most of the app remains functional for those who don't want to pay anything. But the Premium Members are getting a few new perks and they are sweet. I have noted when a feature is Premium only.

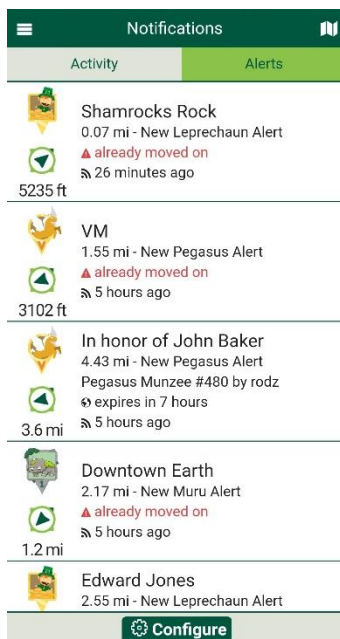
MY PROFILE

From the main map page, click the hamburger menu (remember, the three horizontal bars) and select My Profile. Wow! This is stuff that heretofore you could only get on your home computer. Now it's all available on your phone; how sweet is that?

Within your profile, you can see your Activity Feed to keep track of what you have captured and which of your Munzees are getting capped. Check out your Social Wall to see whose socials you have capped. Maybe one will remind you of a friend that you met at a Munzee event. Ah, memories.

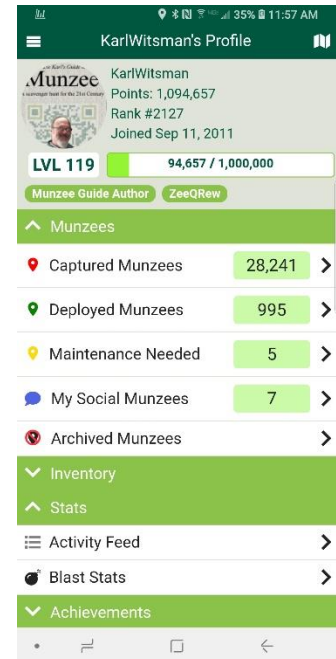
Check out your Rover Kennel to see who you are transporting and where your own dogs are. Check your Captured, Deployed, Undeployed, etc. It's almost an overload of information here. The Inventory option shows you want kinds of Munzees or specials you might be carrying, in case you forgot.

NOTIFICATIONS



On the Map (Home) Screen, you will often see a red number near the word Munzee at the top. This is letting you know how many notifications you have waiting for you here. Check out who scanned your Munzee and which Munzee it was without having to run home and sign onto the computer. You can get here by going to the menu selection or just tapping on the red number. You can also see any special comments they made like "Nice Munzee!" or "I could hardly scan it," or "What is wrong with you, Karl, not everyone is over six foot tall!" OK, not all of them will be winners. Now on that same page there is a tab behind the Activity tab for Alerts.

At the bottom of the Alert tab, there is a gear icon for you to configure how you like alerts. You can tell it to only show them within 5 miles of your home and other neat functions. If you do enable alerts, be sure that you know how to use your phone's Do Not Disturb function or you will be getting alerts all night.



FRIENDS

One of the reasons that I had to go to the website every night was to see how my Munzee Friends were doing. These are people who live near me, people that I know from caching, and people that I have talked into joining Munzee. My sister, good friends and even my wife are listed too.

I like to keep up with them and see how they are doing in the game. Sometimes I email or text them with encouragements. Sometimes I compete with them (I'm ahead of you! Better get going.) in a friendly way.

Now I can check on them throughout the day with the app in the My Profile section. It shows them by their ranking by points. You can even add new Munzee Friends on the app. (that Plus sign at the top).

If you click on one of them, you can see more details about them, probably more than you ever should know, ha ha! Check for this information in the Profile section of the app.

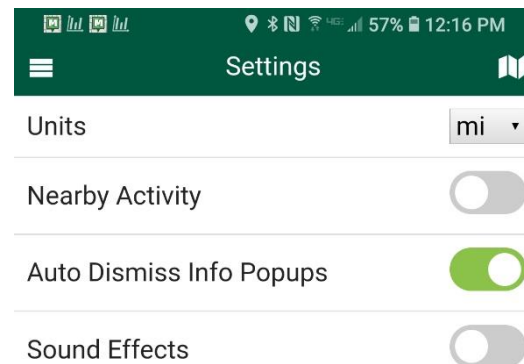
LEADERBOARD

If you are interested in the global rankings of your friends, that are still part of the app. It shows the top 100 Munzers in the world. I made it all the way to Number 1424 in the world once, but I doubt that I'll ever show up on this list. But one can dream! **Late note:** Thanks to an event in Ohio, hosted by Arts5, I made it to 12th in the world for one brief, shining moment. Donna was 13th. Then we quickly slid back down where we belonged. That was on the Daily Board, I am still in the top 2000 in the overall category. At least for now. Some young gun is always behind you, scheming to take your spot. Gotta keep moving. Recently (2016), Arts5 unseated Pilsleyguy for the Number One spot in the world. And now Hunnies has knocked Arts5 out of that spot. Yep, gotta keep moving.

SETTINGS

Still under the Menu button (looks like three lines on top of each other) you will find the settings screen. If you have a question about "Where do I change how it..." this screen is where it resides. The most important part of the settings right now is whether you want Nearby Activity showing on your map, to keep track of other hunters, and how many Munzees you want to show on the map at once. Lowering the number will speed up the loading while you are in the heart of a large city. Remember that the Munzee app is always changing and being updated, so your Settings screen might look different than mine.

The Nearby Activity option allows you to see any close activity while you are out hunting, so you can see if other Munzee hunters are in your vicinity. I like to use it at events to see where everyone is.



TEST SCAN

This is handy to use on your own Munzees when your Munzee container falls over in the car and you have got them all out of order and now you don't know which one to deploy where. Or is that only MamaDuck71 and me?

MULTIPLE USERS (Premium only)

If you are a Premium Member, you can share your phone with other family members to use while Munzee hunting. This way, families can share one data plan but everybody still gets to scan. The multi-user function has worked great for my wife. For some reason, her phone battery is always dead or near dead when we go out to hunt. So just imagine, one or two of your hunting group runs out of battery and your vehicle is a mile back down the road. Now you are down to one phone. Aren't you glad that you paid for that membership now?

To switch between user names, find the little icon of a head at the top right of the map. Touching this will open a menu to add two other names to your phone. Once they sign in on your phone, switching is very easy, just touch and choose. But be careful. Once, at an event, I capped several Munzees out by myself before I realized that all the points were going to Donna. Ouch. I had to walk back and start over.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This is where you will find what types of special Munzees you have collected. You can see all the pretty icons and how many of each that you have captured.

One can also collect badges now too. That is what finally pulled my wife, Donna, into Munzee after about a year of watching me do it. Points? Who wants points? But badges? Sign her up! Some people are just weird that way.



The badges are quite pretty and are designed by the lovely and talented Trish V. Badges can be earned for doing various tasks like deploying 5 Motel Munzees or more Herculean labors such as deploying 100 Munzees in one day. Whew!



I particularly like my First Responder badge for being the first Munzer to capture a certain number of Munzees before anyone else. Hey, I am an early riser. If you don't have this badge yet, consider setting that alarm a little earlier, Lazy Bones.

FILTERS (Premium only for the Advanced Filter)

This little beauty is excellent. The setup is not always intuitive, but you can choose to only look for Specials or to exclude those Munzees which you placed. There are many choices, so look at this screen for a while to maximize your hunting experience. And be sure to scroll down as there could be more types hiding below the bottom of your screen.

This works for both the Map and the List screens, so keep this in mind if you don't see a Munzee that you know is nearby; maybe you shut off its type in here. To turn on a specific type, touch it. The same way to shut it off. If you see a red X beside the icon type, you won't see it on the map. If it has a green checkmark beside it, you will see it. Be sure to save your filter by tapping Save on the bottom of the screen to put it into effect.

The Munzee filters in the app are like a mask. Those Munzees are still there, but you can mask some of them, so they won't show on your Map or your List. Doing so blocks out those items which you don't want to mess with right now, so if you are on a quest for Munzee Hotels you don't have to see every regular (Greenie) Munzee that is out there, and it makes the map easier to read in urban areas where there could be thousands of Munzees.

There are three different filter groups on the app. The first two are Physical and Virtual. These are inclusive filters. If you don't choose something, it will be invisible to you for now. You can go in and change the filter at any time. And I suggest doing that when you go into a new area. It's easy to forget that you are blocking something and then miss a treasure trove of Munzees or try to deploy and be blocked by a Munzee type that you have masked out. The first thing to do when you change areas is to evaluate your filters.

The third filter group is named "Premium." These are only for Premium Members but are very useful. These are also confusing to many people. They are exclusive, while the other two areas are additive. Mostly, you only want to choose one of these, like "Only Nomads" then hit the back button. This will save the filter for you. Now only 10 or 12 Nomad Munzees in the whole world will show on your map page. But be careful! If you choose "Only Nomads" AND "Only Rovers" you have just chosen to see a Munzee type that doesn't even exist, so you will see **nothing** on your Map or List. Only Premium Members can use the Advanced Filters. Believe me here, if there is nothing else that is worth the \$30 per year, this one feature is it! You can turn off the Munzees that you have already found, and those little red icons will get out of your way to allow you to see the other Munzees hiding under them. You can also turn off your own Munzees, so the little grey icons will not show either.

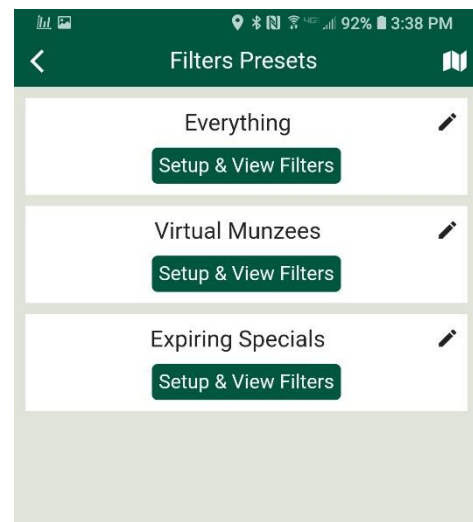


The button for Activate All Types is a life-saver. Hit this to turn on everything in the Virtual and Physical areas. You might have turned something off, but you don't have time to go looking around for it. Just tap this button and keep hunting.

There is a button here for Deploy Mode. If, like myself, you turned off your own Munzees and those that you found, then you want to deploy a new one, sometimes the app will tell you that you are too close to another Munzee. The Deploy Mode turns everything back on again so that you can deploy more easily. Once you are done, tap the Activate All Types button again to get back to where you were.

Another reason to "go Premium" is the ability to have Filter Presets. You will get three of them. Here is how they work: Set up your filters how you would like them. Go to Filters, then Manage Filter Presets. Store your current filter setup under either Filter Preset 1, 2, or 3. Now alter the filters somewhat. Save again by hitting the back arrow at the top. If you click on the little pencil icon, you can change the name of the filter.

With this, you can have a filter like "Virtuals Only" or Rovers Only, or Physicals but only Zodiac and Hotels, Motels, and Timeshares. Or do what I do and set up your everyday filters as you like them as Preset 1. Go to Deploy Mode and see everything to do a deploy, then go right back to your normal desired view by hitting Preset 1. VERY HANDY.



HELP, SUPPORT, and ABOUT

This is where you can go for help when Uncle Karl isn't around. It accesses some basic help functions and you can even load up the main Help webpage from here if your question is more involved. The About Screen tells you what version of Munzee you are running and keeps track of how many Munzees are out in the world and how many players are out there. Let's keep these numbers growing, shall we?

LOGOUT

This choice lets the current user log out. But why? For heaven's sake, why would you ever log out of Munzee? I suppose it takes all kinds... There are sometimes when an update needs to change something on all the accounts that you might have to log out and then sign back on. So, it's good to have the option. It is in the Profile, look at the options in the very bottom of the Profile listing.

SEND MESSAGE

If you are a Premium member of Munzee, you can send and receive messages to other Premiums via the app. This has come in handy for me when I saw someone else capping the same Munzees just moments ahead of me and was able to meet another Munzer in the wild. This is most useful if you are at a Munzee event and you or your partners don't want to quit Munzee hunting to pull up an SMS message or (heaven forbid!) call each other on the phone. (Man, I didn't know people still did that.)

To read your messages or send a message, find the icon of the envelope on the map screen. Tap on that and the tab opens up to allow messages.

IT (almost) HAS IT ALL!

With all these new features, why would anyone have to go to the website anymore? Well, that is part of the idea. For a few weeks in mid-2013, during a Double Points Weekend, the load on the servers was too much. Munzee HQ bravely fought the elements to keep the app running, but the server was down for most of the weekend. This new version will allow many of the actions previously done on the webpage to be done on the app and such incidents (which are better forgotten, probably) may not recur. Or at least you can keep Munzing through it all.



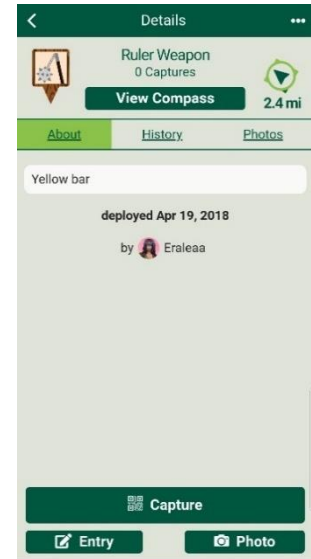
Part of the kit that Donna takes with her when we go on a Munzee Adventure. The little green case was for a First Aid kit and we found it at a Meijer store.

Editing Munzees

Once you have deployed a Munzee, you can edit it by going into your profile, then clicking on its name in the Deployed List and choosing the menu button. This brings up the Edit menu. The Deployed List used to be a Premium Member service, so not everyone might see it. Again, it's worth more than \$30 to be a Premium Member and be able to do even more in the field. I certainly do **not** miss rushing back to the house, hotel room, or Wi-Fi hotspot to get the laptop out to correct a Munzee name or description. Doing it all at the deployment site leaves me more time to hunt and deploy.

To edit this Munzee, Eraleaa (Donna) would click on the three dots on the top right. This would allow her to move the Munzee slightly or to rename it.

It also offers a much easier way to replace a lost Munzee with a generic (from the Munzee store) right there in the field, without writing down a long address and then keeping track of it until you get home. In this case, you choose the Munzee from the list and look at the same menu for the other edits. Find the Replace feature. Scan the generic and the app does the rest.



You can also work a little with Undeployed Munzees, editing them or renaming them, etc. This is a little easier than doing it after the placement, if you have a Munzee you printed, and you think you know where this little Munzee is going before you get there. Of course, you can still modify this, and the Note (clue), once you get on-site.

Replacing, repairing, and using your credits

Donna (Erleaa) calls the process "Jellosity." I call it the ephemeral nature of Munzee. It means that at some time the lamp pole, that your Munzee was on, will be hit by some careless driver and be replaced. Or the city will replace or move the No Parking sign and now your Munzee is gone.

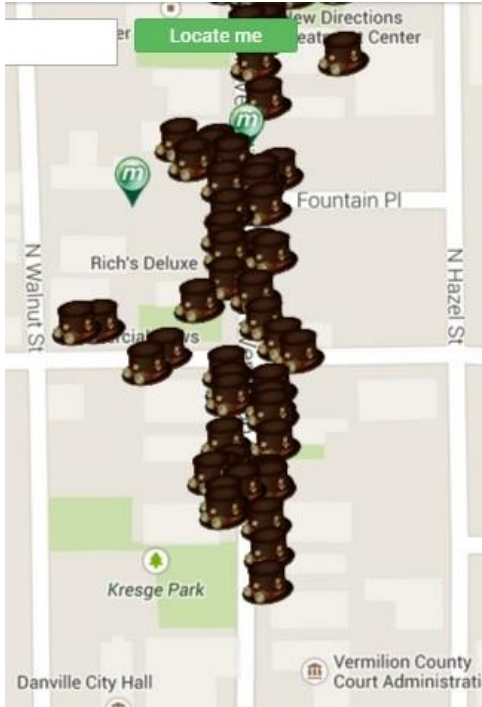
You can go home, print it out again, laminate it again, and then return to the scene of the crime and replace it. But it is much easier to buy some generics for such repairs in the field. Pull up the missing Munzee on the map or list, then open the little page for that Munzee by touching the description at the top. Find the menu on the right. Choose Replace, then scan the new generic. Now they are linked, and you can stick the generic on the new pole. Don't worry if it was a mystery or special Munzee, because the new generic is linked and will take on the qualities and properties of the old Munzee. So, you don't need to worry about losing a great Munzee placement.

Or maybe you got a special credit from the Munzee Store or you won one in a contest. Now you want to use your special credit, like a gem or Rock-Paper-Scissor Munzee. Go ahead and deploy a generic Munzee, then during the process you will name it, give it a clue for future hunters, and fine-tune the placement on the map. Next you should see a screen saying, "Make It Special" and here is where you choose to make it a gem, clan weapon, or other special Munzee.

Munzee Events

The lucky few might get to attend a large Munzee event sometime. Most of us are just happy to see a small one pop up nearby on the Munzee.com calendar. Or maybe you'd like to host one? Most of us probably dream of such a chance. Anyway, go to the website and look at the calendar. This lists any

upcoming events in different colors, so you can tell which continent they are occurring on. I hope that you can find one close and attend one.



I was fortunate enough to go to a couple of smaller events, finally, and they were great. It was a good chance to exchange Social Munzees and finally meet some of those names that I had seen capping my Munzees. If a Premium Member taps My Munzees, then goes to the Social tab, they can display their Social for capping. But I preferred printing mine out in a huge size on paper and on business cards which I passed out during the events. People who didn't have time or enough battery at the event were still capping my social from the cards three days after the event.

I finally hosted my own and paid extra to have a special badge designed for a Steam-punk inspired Comicon type event. These top hats were all over the area for two days for attendees to capture. Events can offer lots of temporary Munzees and are a good way to get points and badges and

specials. They are also good places to meet old buddies and make new friends.

Hosting your own event

OK, I won't kid you. This is a ton of work. And it will cost you a lot of time and a little money. But what is that compared to the chance to meet other Munzers in your area and bring in people to your town to scan all those Munzees that you have so lovingly placed? It's worth it!

First, before you contact anyone at Munzee HQ, think about where you want to have your event. It should be somewhere that you can place temporary Munzees every 50 feet from each other. Previously people put them all in one spot and then printed a sheet and everyone just sat in the Denny's restaurant and scanned them. NO MORE! This game is all about getting outdoors, so let's think of places where people must walk off some of those extra pounds.



Secondly, if you can have a theme to your event, that is even better. You don't need one, but people seem to like themes. And if you want a special badge for the whole event or special icon on each Munzee, then a theme helps to tie it all together. We talked about how we used the Steampunk theme to match up with the local library doing a



Comic-Con based around Free Comics Day. Donna has done an Evil Elf event for the autumn of the past two years and plans to continue. Some people combine their event with an ice cream social, cook-out, and/or 50-50 prize drawing. Your only limit is your budget.

If you have all that, go to the Munzee website and find the calendar. Choose a date and put your event up. Try to plan at least a month ahead if you want special artwork or a badge. Later, the lovely Louise will email you, the host, with details and costs of everything. You will get at least an event badge and 50 regular, temporary Munzees with the basic event. There may be a few virtuals also. Everything else costs extra, but you can choose how much you want to spend. I do recommend paying the extra to have the proximity turned off. You still must put the event Munzees 50 feet from each other, but without the proximity rule you can now put the temporary Munzees in a spot without deleting any previous Munzees that you might have put out.



The temporary Munzees are not linked to your account. You will get a temporary account name for the event and a password emailed to you. Sign into that account and print out the Munzees. I like to print them on a label, then I stick the label to a 4x5 card that lists the name of the event and when the Munzee can be removed. I do this because we do our events along an outdoor mall and the store owners like to know when the card will be removed. I always get permission and I tell them that I will be removing the card after the event, but in case I miss one the business owner will know from the card when to throw it away.

This also means that YOU can scan the event Munzees for points. Sweet!

On the evening before, or the morning of the event, sign into the temporary account and deploy the Munzees. This is the hard bit. It will take you a few hours to get it done, so allow yourself plenty of time. When I do it, I end up walking the entire route at least three times. Once to deploy, once to capture as myself, and again to remove the cards. If you wanted, you could combine the last two trips once everyone else has gone home. But I could use the exercise, myself. Heh heh heh.

You will want a Central Command Center where you or a friend can sit and help new Munzers and meet everyone. You will deploy the event pin Munzee and any badge here so everyone can scan it and get the Munzee badge and the points. I like to have people sign in and get their email address or Facebook name, so I can personally invite them to future events.

Plus, you get a badge for being a Host. Isn't life wonderful?

Social Munzees

That special kind of Munzee known as a Social can be fun to collect. People either earn or buy a Social and can reserve it for in-person meetings or post it online for anyone to cap. I have one of each. You can find “Karl is not totally anti-social” out there somewhere. Maybe even somewhere earlier in this book? To cap “Karl in Person” you will just have to track me down in real life. Good luck with that!

You can find your Social under the menu, under your Profile. Once you see one, to the left side to display the code for a friend to scan. This is fine for that one Munzer that you meet at the mall lamp post and want to trade socials, but for events I still recommend printing those puppies out. I get all kinds of great comments and thanks from people at events because I printed mine out so large that I can hold one over my head and a whole group can scan it at once.

Oh, don't forget to deploy your Social Munzee from the website before you go out and try to share it. That would just be embarrassing. And it was.

Some Wi-Fi issues

This isn't really a Munzee issue, since we see the same thing in Foursquare, but every so often one of us will have trouble scanning a Munzee and having it not report to Munzee HQ; perhaps it goes in the offline queue, but just a few moments ago, 150 feet away, we had no problem. It used to do that with my Motorola on Verizon and Donna has the same issue every time she gets near a McDonald's.

At some time in the past, she's connected to Wi-Fi at a McDonalds and now it's on her phone's list. I don't have that issue at restaurants, but I have used the phone on Wi-Fi in a Hampton Inn, so Hamptons throw off my phone. I don't have the same issue at any other hotel because I haven't connected to the Wi-Fi in other hotels using my phone.

A word to the wise, if you connect at various Wi-Fi spots you might want to delete the "remembered" Wi-Fi spots every so often to make Munzee faster near those locations. Or just turn off Wi-Fi altogether when on a Munzee run. I must agree. It uses a little more of my data plan, but it's more fun than chasing down Wi-Fi phantoms.

One unhappy Munzer got into trouble because she was capping Munzees on a cruise. The ocean liner got it's Wi-Fi signal to passengers via a radio beam from Miami. She didn't have cell signal, so she tried to scan via the Wi-Fi and almost got banned for trying to cheat, since she was claiming Munzees in Europe but was showing up as sitting in Miami. **TURN OFF YOUR WIFI** when you go on a Munzee hunt.

Stealth in Munzee Hunting

When we talked about finding a Munzee, I joked about being arrested. As far as I know, that hasn't happened to anyone yet, although such games might be illegal in your part of the world. There are probably spots where political or religious intolerance extend to the use of satellites, GPS, or sneaking around. If that is the case, please don't risk it.

But even in free countries, there will be times that a Munzee is in a place that it shouldn't be or in a very public spot. You must decide if you want to risk looking for it. Many have been the times that I have driven right by a geocache or Munzee because I did not feel comfortable going near private property or the approach looked dangerous. Or there are people mowing near the Munzee. Or it's too close to a school.

I have already said that while you are placing a Munzee that if someone asks what you are doing, you should tell the truth. The same goes for finding them. Honesty really is the best policy. But even better than that is to not draw suspicion to yourself at all.

The surest way to draw attention to oneself is to act suspiciously. Hang around the light post for a long time, furtively looking back and forth and you will certainly end up trying to explain yourself. I like to spend a few minutes searching, but if I cannot find it right away, I plan to return later. It's not as if life and limb is at stake if you don't capture the Munzee. It is three points in a game.



I don't wear a trench coat and a funny hat unless it's raining. I don't park unsafely or too closely to the final deployment site unless that is helpful for stealth purposes. I often put the phone up to my head to make it look like I'm on the phone, trying to call someone. Most people will go right on by you. Young people will stare at you because you are **using** the phone to make a call! How retro!

Sometimes, when I can drag her out of the warm bed, I take my poor wife out to watch for bystanders while I make the capture. She will alert me if someone is coming so that I'm not giving away the location of the Munzee to a group of youths who might destroy it or that kindly older couple who will call 911 on me. Once, a muggle was looking toward me, but he hadn't seen me quite yet. Just as she saw that I was about to capture the Munzee, Donna set off the car alarm to divert his attention. I love that woman.

I will warn you that, in some instances, my Uncle Karl side comes out. Sometimes I will find myself in a mall parking lot where it is very public. Someone approaches and asks if they can help me. I might then tell the curious onlooker that I am on a scavenger hunt, which is still the truth, but a lot shorter explanation. Someone in the forums asked, "Why lie?" when I talked about this on a recent thread.

Well, I figure that I am protecting that poor innocent person from a half-hour wasted listening to me wax eloquently about Munzee and GPS and geolocation and selling them a copy of this book. Heh heh heh.



I also look at the possibility that the mall security person is probably going to rip that Munzee off the back of the sign and ruin that find for others. So sometimes stealth pays off.

Uncle Karl likes to pretend to be a spy, hunting the elusive dead drop³ to scan the secret microfilm. If an innocent bystander comes by during the search, you never know when they might be an enemy agent. If you can't neutralize them because you left your Walther in the car and you are saving the explosive in your belt buckle to break out of a dungeon later, you might just have to talk to them. Remember that Uncle Karl is anti-social. Are you sure that I can't just use the explosive?

³ A dead drop is a spy technique for passing information from spy to spy. The hider will put the microfilm in a small container and hide it. Later another spy, hopefully from the same side, will come along and retrieve the microfilm. Those two spies don't even have to know each other, just where to find their drop area. Hey, this sounds a little familiar, doesn't it?

Support

There is no better place for support than the Munzee Team! I had a problem getting the app to work with my wonky phone, the Support Team helped me via emails on at least two weekends and even a holiday! This is the reason I decided to financially support the team by becoming a Premium Member. Try getting someone to help you on a holiday at any other website. It will be very rare. These guys are great!

While you are on the web, look for Munzee on Facebook. Then you will have access to friendly and helpful people when you have a crucial question or a comment. That way, besides the Support Team, other Munzers will gladly come to your rescue or answer that bothersome question that has been gnawing at you for months.

The main reason that I check various Munzee Facebook groups is for a source of support, encouragement, inspiration, information, and sometimes aggravation and arguments. But it's one of my favorite online places in the world. I love almost all those participants. I mean that I love them in a good way, of course, not the creepy way. OK, maybe one of them in a creepy way, but I'm not telling which one.

Check into the many topics online and see if someone had your same issue a few months ago. Someone might have already solved it and posted the answer. You didn't even have to type. That was easy. But if you come up with a new problem, just post it and keep checking back for your answer.

There are some videos and tutorials on YouTube as well. I am toying with the idea of starting a Munzee tutorial channel on YouTube myself. If I do, search YouTube for Karl Witsman and you can easily find me.

Dishonesty in Munzee

There are very few rules in Munzee. The game is still in its infancy and you can be very creative if you are thoughtful to others. I've mentioned a few rules like posting codes at least 150 from any of your other deployments and obeying the local laws.

Because of the paucity of rules, there aren't many things to even cheat about, but as soon as you start giving out points someone's greed will appear. Someone, somewhere, will always find a way to cheat. I have obscured the QR codes of Munzees pictured in this book because someone found a way to claim such photos remotely. Not fair and not fun.

Why they cheat is a mystery to me. You only cheat yourself. The points are paramount, yes, but the real fun to any geolocation game is getting out there and finding new locations, learning new roads, finding parks that you never knew existed. It is very Zen, and that's why I like it. It's the journey that counts the most. Don't cheat yourself out of the fun.



Referral Codes

If you happen upon a friend who doesn't Munzee yet, or a new Munzer with fewer than 10 captures to their credit, you can be their Referral agent. Under Tools, you will find a choice for Referral Code. Have the new person scan this code on your phone screen.

You will get 10 points and they will get 50 points. Hopefully this will serve as an encouragement to them to keep playing. If they do keep playing, you could get 10 points for every 100 Munzees that they scan in the future. Let's refer all our friends.

Virtual Munzees

We talked about Virtual Munzees before, but some review is in order. The special type of Munzee known as a Virtual or “Virt” does not involve a code. The seeker simply gets within 300 feet of the deployer’s intended target site, chooses the Munzee and then hits the Capture button. They used to be a pearly white on the map and sometimes hard to see. But that has changed for those willing to spend an extra dollar to add some color to their Virts.

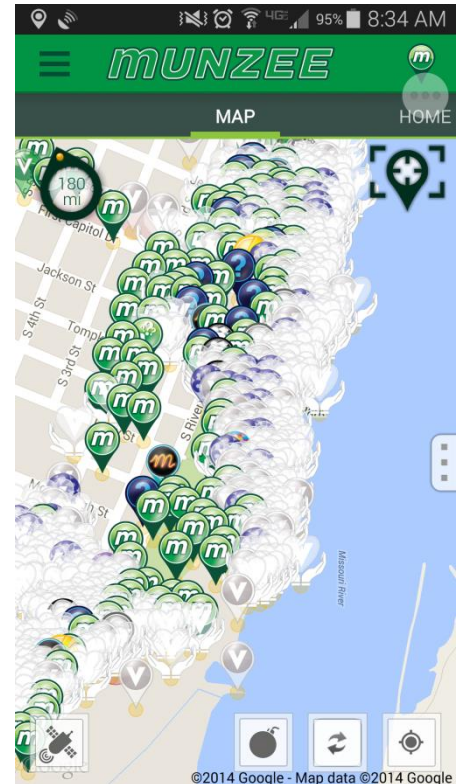
There is now a virtual quiz Munzee where the finder must go to the site and answer a question about something that you can only know from being at the place. How cool is that? Or it could be a trivia contest based on something nearby...or just about anything. Some people really get into making their fellow Munzers think. Just don’t get a reputation of making quizzes so hard that people faint from overworking their brains. That could cut down on the number of folks attempting your tests.

I mention Virtuals here again because of a couple of incidents which happened in 2014. To raise money for Ronald McDonald House charity, Munzee Headquarters released a temporary virtual that we could buy for a good deal while also providing a donation to a worthy cause. That was all well and good...and then it blew up! In the first two days, there were enough of these to donate over \$10,000 and by the end of the sales period they raised over \$25,000 for the charity. Good job, Munzers!

The other issue was that a geocaching event occurred in St. Charles, Missouri; a little thing called GeoWoodstock. This brought about a thousand cachers to the area and many of them were Munzee hunters too.

I had previously attended a caching event where crafty folks hid Virtuals all over the event site. We probably secretly snickered as we ran in between the cachers, capturing Virtuals and crashing the event, well, virtually. I’m a cacher and registered for the event yet I found more Munzees than caches.

Having done this before, I put two or three permanent virtual Munzees at the site of GeoWoodstock. So did a few other wags, probably other cacher/Munzers that play both games. Thus, we had about fifty Virtuals out there. But when the Ronald McDonald House (RMD) Virtuals went on sale, we doubled our efforts. I looked early and there might have been near a hundred Munzees, including actual physical Munzees, at the site. A week before the event, thanks to RMD Virtuals, there were over 800 Virtuals in one park!



And they expanded out of the park. Eventually down the street. To a nearby mall parking lot. Donna and I spent a few hours sitting in the van and walking the lot, capping over two hundred Virtuals around the Bass Pro Shop.

The next day, at the actual event, I went up about five levels! Donna, who started only recently, went up about ten levels since each level did not require as many captures as at my level. But we never would have even got this many without a new feature: The Blast Capture.

Having a blast at GeoWoodstock

Before our tiring day of capturing hundreds of Virtuals in Missouri, Munzee President Rob Vardeman had had a similar issue in Germany. He was at an event there, and there were hundreds of Virtuals at a stadium, but his attention was needed elsewhere, and he had to leave many un-captured. This led to the idea of the Blast Capture.



The Blast Capture can be purchased in the Munzee Store for \$5. It appears on the app's map, along the bottom, like a little bomb. Not a modern bomb, but one of those that Boris and Natasha might put in Bullwinkle's backpack. Find your way to the middle of a bunch of virtual Munzees on the map and tap the cartoon bomb icon. A box will pop up asking if you want to use the blast to capture 23 virtual Munzees, or whatever happens to be around. It works with up to 100 Virtuals. If that is what you want, then choose the appropriate choice and watch it go.

Blasts take a while, but you can keep capturing physical Munzees in that area or move to another area and capture other Virtuals. After a while you will see that the first virtual Munzees are changed to a bomb icon. And after an even longer time, you will be rewarded with a report of how many you captured and how many points you got from the capture. You can capture up to 100 Virtuals (sorry, no Greenies) from an area up to a mile away!

To be honest, at first, I thought of this as cheating, or at least cheating yourself of the joy of walking all over and capping the individual virtual Munzees. And that still

holds for those areas with two or three of them. But at huge events, with over 800 Virtuals hanging over you, there is no way that you could do it. It was worth \$5 each for my wife and I to be able to get out of there and finally go home. And we didn't even get them all with the blasts...we had to return another weekend. But we are lucky enough to be close enough to do that; others used up to 8 blasts to clear out the area. Once cleared, the regular Munzees were once again visible on the map.

Other cachers were caching (can you believe it?) at the caching event and had to do blasts or they would have never been able to find any caches. I certainly didn't. Not a single geocache. Did I mention that there were over 800 Munzees?

At an event the next weekend in Freeport, Illinois, we found the area the folks put many of their Virtuals, and I had placed one there too. It had looked like a plowed field on Google satellite view but was now it was waist-high with weeds. Good thing that we had bought a few extra Blast Captures. Boom!

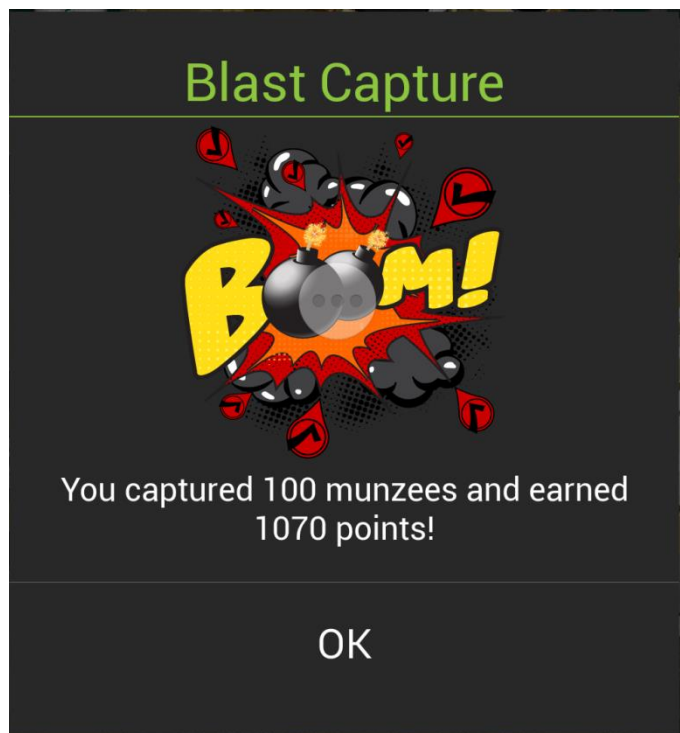
Craig W from online also suggested that he might plan on using a Blast Capture to clear out Disneyland and Disney California Adventure without having to pay to go in the park. When one considers the cost of going into those parks, feeding the family at the inflated prices inside, and all the time that you'd be capping instead of enjoying the park, well, it would be worth \$5 or \$10 to do it. Even if you did go in the park, at least you could enjoy doing something other than capping Virts all day.

Another use is when you are out capping in a park that you will never be able to return to. Then little Suzy gets stung by a bee and now you must go to the ER. Set off a quick blast and clean out the park as you hurry her back to the car. Once you do the blast, you don't have to stay in the area. Get that girl some medical help!

Someone put a virtual on the 50-yard line of a nearby stadium that I will never go inside. I could get within 500 feet of it from outside the stadium but could not capture it. It taunted me as the only local Munzee that I could not grab. I can finally get it off my list by using a blast capture and using the half-mile radius if I can get a friend to put another virtual close by. I am not sure it is worth \$5 just for a few Virtuals, but that one uncapped icon is driving me crazy! OK, crazier than I already am.

One social tip: Don't ask your Munzee hunting partner "How did your bomb work?" while standing in line at McDonald's afterwards. Fortunately, I don't think anyone heard me.

Aunt Donna adds: He obviously didn't notice the elderly lady that fainted.



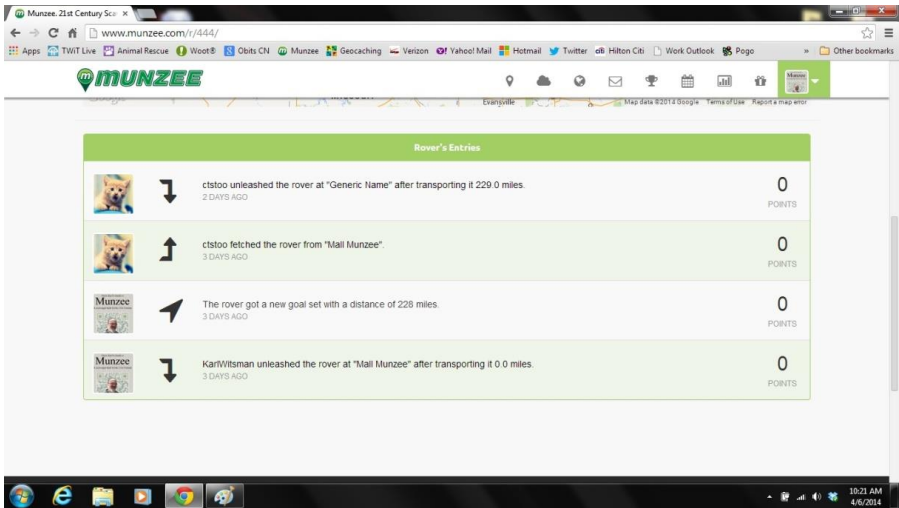
Rovers

If you have ever owned a dog, you know that their favorite words are “Who wants to go for a ride?” Dogs love to ride in the car, so long as you don’t drive by the vet’s office. Whereas cats have learned not to get into cars, dogs will lovingly jump right in with you.

It’s the same with Munzee Rovers. These fun mutts hang around in your kennel in the phone and then can be placed at their favorite light poles on a Munzee. Go to the website to release your Rover and to give him (or her) a goal; to travel across the country, to other nations, or to go a certain number of miles. Then release him on a Munzee via the phone app and let another hunter carry him or her to the next Munzee. Rovers travel with Munzers to hop all over the place and gain mileage which you can track on the Munzee website.

You can buy Rovers on the Munzee.com website, through the Freezetag store. Track them in your Profile section.

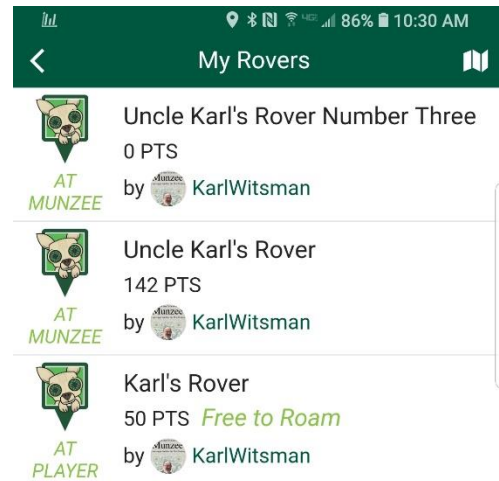
There are even badges for those who help Rovers to get around in the world. But you must move a lot of them.



Once you have released your Rover on the website, find an appropriate regular Munzee to put him on. To start out with, it will have to be a regular Munzee. If your Rover gets to a certain level, he can be dropped off at Motel Munzees, later levels allow a Rover to sit on a Virtual Munzee.

You can unleash your Rover on any regular Munzee and that Munzee can hold unlimited Rovers. Some Munzees are even set up to be Kennels for Rovers to start at for pick-up to go to special places. My Rover started at such a kennel for a trip to Germany when we knew a German player was going to be in town. He carried a bunch of Rovers to Europe.

If your Rover gets stuck, or a player quits playing while holding your Munzee, you can call him back and he will return to you, so don't worry that he's gone forever.



Clan Warfare

One of the exciting additions to Munzee in the last year or so has been clans. Since I live in such a Munzee-poor area, I thought that I would never even want to join a clan, lest I be the low-scoring guy of the group. The pressure to perform is great when others might not get certain rewards for my lack of scanning. Yikes!

But I finally joined a clan after Adilts1257 asked me. We aren't part of that clan now, but two clans later we were the only Americans in a German clan. Then we were a part of a clan with members in Illinois and Oregon. The last clan we were in were closer, most of them in Central Indiana. Watch out, all other clans! You will collapse in agonizing defeat as we tromp over your... OK, remember what I said about FRIENDLY competition. OK, I feel better now.

Anyway, once you join a clan, all the members can pool points to win cool Clan Weapons like maces, broadswords, and Chucks. If you want to know more, look on the website or go to the Facebook groups and ask to join a clan. Then look for the support of your fellow clan members as you run into issues, etc.

Premium Membership (Yes...again!)

So, maybe you like this Munzee game and now you want to support it financially. And even though Munzee is already an exclusive club, maybe you want to be in the Elite Munzee Corps. Then Premium Membership is for you. But what happens after you pay your \$30? What do you get from it?

First, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the staff that brought us this fun pastime, so they don't have to pay for the server space out of their own pockets. They must make a living and have mouths to feed at home.

You will get a Premium (Gold) Munzee each year that you belong. It used to be a gold star on metal, but it was so nice that some people didn't even want to deploy them because they could not bear to part with them. And that's OK! Now it just comes as a credit that you can apply to any generic Munzee you want to. You also get a Motel Munzee to use in the same way.

You will also get four Virtual Munzees that you can place anywhere. These are sweet, and I have used them to honor people in spots where a regular, printed Munzee might not be appropriate. You can deploy them from the phone if you are standing right where you want one or get on the computer and put them anywhere in the world. Well, don't try to put one in Berlin or London, there's hardly any room left!

You will also get a Social Munzee, which gives no points, but it's nice sharing and you can share it to get a badge and help others get a badge (eventually).

You will also be able to see your statistics. Want to know your daily point average? Want to know which was your best capture day? Or your best deployment day? All kind of good information is available to obsess over, if you care.

Perhaps you want to know when new Munzees get deployed in your area. You can get emails based on your choice of distance to find out when a new deployment occurs that you might want to capture. Maybe you just want to be first. And that's OK. Don't worry, you don't need professional help. Uncle Karl has a master's degree in psychology and was a counselor for many years and he says that you are just fine (as far as Munzees are concerned, anyway)!

Premium members can also create more Munzees (to print later) than the regular members can. That might not matter if you bought a bunch of generics from the store, but it is an advantage for many.

Also, sometimes non-Premium players will see ads in the app. Premium members can shut off those ads.

If you need another challenge, try ZeeOps. It's like a monthly spy mission. Premium members get 10 credits per month to help start you out.

In addition to all of this, when a new Munzee type comes out, Premium members often get the first chance to buy them.

Can you help a brother out?

Sometimes your Munzee Brother or Sister has kindly put a Munzee in your neighborhood. And after a while, if they printed it themselves, it might get faded. Or even a store-bought Munzee sticker gets painted over. Do you just report it as missing? Maybe, or perhaps you like that Munzee there and you want to help them out. You can replace their Munzee for them with a store-bought generic Munzee rather easily, but it takes some teamwork. You need the 6-digit code from the generic to link it. Do this by doing a test scan.

Open your tools in your app menu and click on Test Scan. This will open the scanner. Scan your generic sticker, an entry will pop up with the URL of the sticker. You will need the last 6 digits of the URL (after the /g/) to link your generic. If you are the one in the field, you can long press (hold down for a few seconds) on the link in your scan history to add it to your copy clipboard. You can then paste it into a Munzee Message to the owner. The owner then goes into that Munzee's details and the Admin tab and enters those digits. This is a great way to help others while keeping Munzees in your neighbor that might catch specials later. (Thanks to Jennifer Guyer's guide, listed in the Resources section, for this tip.)

A new movement is the ZeeQRew. To be a member, you must be a Munzee hunter for a certain length of time, or have captured a certain number of Munzees, and you must have deployed a Munzee in the last 15 days. You must also be a Premium Member. If you meet all the qualifications (see the blog for details) then you can be one of the proud, the few, the ZeeQRew! Folks in this group can replace Munzees for people anytime without doing all the above. Just grab a generic out of your pack, open the Munzee Details Page, and find the Replace feature. Scan and stick.

Mythological Munzees

First, I should say that the title is a misnomer. Those Munzees are not mythological, but they host some mythological creatures. There are currently many types of these creatures: leprechauns, unicorns, dragons, yetis, Pegasus, and fauns (like Pan), a cyclops, and more added all the time. These were purchased by players and now they travel around the world, landing on different Munzees. They can all land on “greenies” and specific Munzee types can draw in a specific mythological. Shamrocks draw in leprechauns and unicorns while Fire Munzees bring in dragons and Ice Munzees pull the Yeti in. Fauns are attracted to Earth Munzees. Pegasus likes to fly above virtual Munzees. The Cyclops seems to prefer jewels, but he can land elsewhere too.

Once landed, the mythological will wait twelve hours for you to capture it. If someone doesn't capture it, it will find another Munzee to land on. But don't let that happen, because these lovelies are worth 100 points or more each! Grab them every chance that you get. There are also badges for capping a specific amount of them.

Some owners of mythological creatures will often share a secret Social Munzee with you if you capture their creature, especially if you add a photo of where you found the entity. I don't do this every time, but some do.

Some additions to this line belong solely to the folks who work for Munzee and associated games. These are much rarer, but they look like their cousins with some differences.

Another type of creature is the Pouch Creature. So far there are a few of them. Tuli creatures hang around Fire Munzees and the good old Greenies. The Vesi prefers Water Munzees. They are worth twice as much as the other mythological creations, but they seem rarer. More are added all the time, so there is still a chance for you to buy one and get in on the action.

Now You See It, Now You Don't

There are a few tricky Munzees out there who are into TMI (too much information). They like to over-share, and we love it!

Prize Wheel Munzees will just give you a prize every so often. Might be a gem, might be extra points, who knows? Just accept the prize and be happy.

The Scatter Munzee will give you points, then it scatters some cool stuff all over to regular greenies in a certain radius. I won't tell you what it scatters, mostly because I can't recall, but it's good stuff. Cap all the greenies in the area first, so you can then cap them twice!

Same thing with Ice and Fire Munzees, they will either freeze or set fire to other nearby Munzees. Save them until you've capped all the other Munzees, then go for it. Sit there for a few and wait for the pyrotechnics! It might take a few minutes before you get an alert so check your map. They will show up on the map before you get the alert. They only last for two hours, though, so call your Munzee friends and get them out of bed to go get them. They will appreciate it. Well, maybe.

The Earth Munzees put out boulders, allowing you to re-cap Munzees that you already found. The Water Munzees throw water droplets all over the place. Wear a hat. Some are fresh water, others are too salty and brackish. But even if you get poisoned, you can get a badge for it.

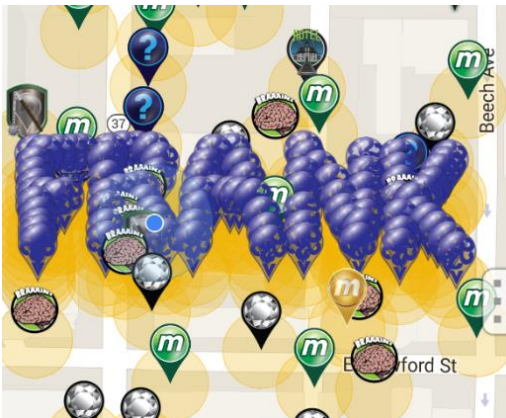
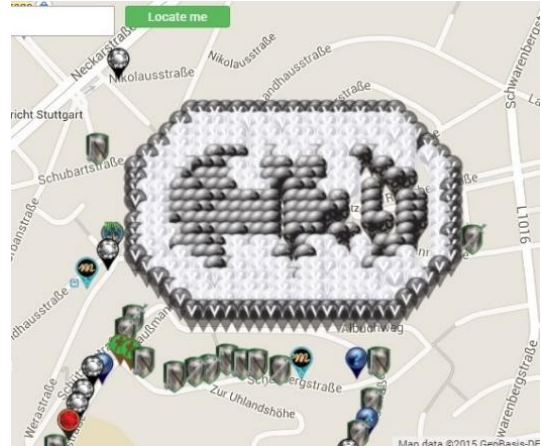
Someone asked me, "Uncle Karl, why would someone cap my Ice Munzee, then not cap all the ice cubes that subsequently appeared?" There are three possibilities. One: A warp in the space-time continuum has sucked them into an alternate reality before they could cap the cubes. OK, that *could* happen, but probably not likely. Two: They could have limited Munzee time and they had to stop playing to go to work or something. Or Mom yelled "Get in the car NOW!" Three: The Munzer is new and doesn't even understand how these scattering Munzees work. That is probably the most likely thing. Reach out and try to help them, if you know them. If not, try to get to know them. These Munzers are a nice group of people. OK, a little weird, but hey, you're part of this weird group too now. Sorry about that.

Anyway, I know that I mentioned these in another section, but the point here is if you are deploying them, try to put the close to a patch of regular or "greenie" Munzees so the scattered bits have somewhere to land. And if you see one in a patch of regular Munzees, cap the regulars first, then hit the ones that share. That way, you'll be able to capture some of the regulars again and get even more points!

Mary, Mary, How Does Your Munzee Garden Grow?

Some people just aren't happy with Munzees all willy-nilly all over their local park. Oh, no, these folks are the elite of the obsessive-compulsive cadre of Munzers. And yes, we are all a little OCD when it comes to Munzee, these folks just take it up a notch. They have created gardens, clustered groups of Munzees which might form a picture when seen from above on the map.

In Stuttgart, Germany, there is a Batman symbol and somewhere in Ohio a Munzee player honored their friend Frank. These gardens are all over. If you see a garden on the map and want to add to it, you will want to "talk" to the creator of the garden for suggestions on where to put one. They usually have special spreadsheets with coordinates, etc. (I told you that they were the *crème de la crème* of the OCD, right?)



If you accidentally place the wrong color or put one in the wrong spot, they will usually contact you and ask you to move it. I always do it, because I'm nice that way. Well, most of the time. But there is no law that says that you must be nice. Be an ***** if you want to be. But don't come crying to me when they put a Munzee in your town titled "MunzMaster is an *****." You are on your own! Sometimes, it pays to just be nice.

So maybe you want to find a garden and help to make a pretty picture? Join one of the Facebook groups where people often post about them or check out this link:

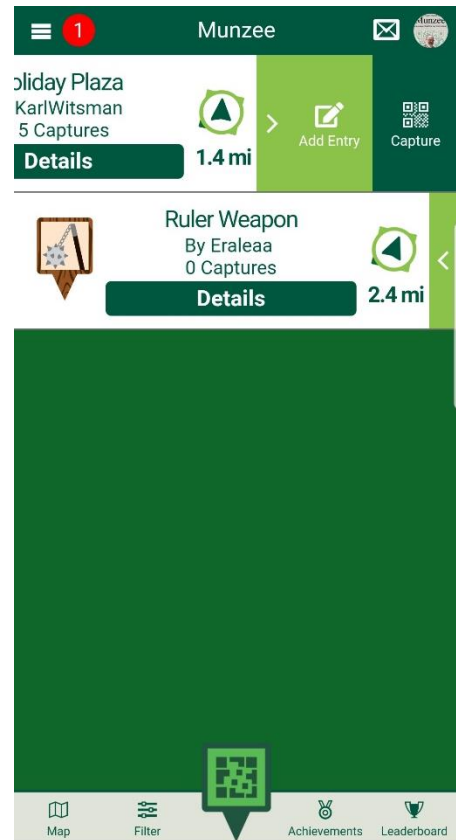
<https://sites.google.com/site/munzeestlouis/home/garden-and-cluster-overview> to find some in the St. Louis, Missouri area. Jennifer G and others would probably appreciate the help.

But let's say that you want to visit a virtual Munzee garden and capture a ton of Munzees all at once. And you don't have a handy Blast Capture, or you can't afford to spend \$5 each for several hundred Virtuals in one city? If you are sitting in a garden of virtual Munzee, you can pick them individually from the map, tap them, then tap the Capture button. But another way to do it faster and easier is through the List View.

On the main Map screen, at the lower left, you will find a link to the List View. Once you click here, the List replaces the Map and you can see all the Munzees in the area. As you can see, there aren't too many left in my town that are left for me to capture. And the ones show might also show some physical Munzees too, which I will have to get out of the car to cap. But if it shows any Virtual

Munzees within 300 or so feet, drag that line to the left and you will find a way to capture them quickly and efficiently, without having to tap on the map time and time again. Here you can either Capture a Munzee or add an entry if you can't find it, it needs repair, or you just love this Munzee placement and want to thank the original deployer.

Virtual Munzee gardens exist all over the world.



Coins

Not enough fun collecting points and badges and deploying stickers? Maybe coins are more your idea of fun. Munzee Coins are collectible items that have a number printed on them. Share the number with other Munzee-hunting friends and both of you get points. You can buy them in the Munzee/Freeze Tag Store online.

Magnets and timers

If you cannot wait for a special mythological creature or a holiday special to come to your town, perhaps you'd like to increase your chances. For a dollar each, you can purchase Munzee Magnets to will magnetize a particular Munzee (either physical regulars or virtual mysteries) for one hour. You are guaranteed to get at least two specials on that Munzee and possibly three in the next hour. But be quick! If you don't get it, it will sit for between 6 and 12 hours and then hop away. Best to just park yourself by the magnetized Munzee and wait.

There is a limit to how many of these you can buy so that everyone has a chance. And it might be a good idea to save a few for the future, since you never know when a new special will come along!

ZeeOps, You Always Wanted to be a Spy, Right?

Good morning, Mr. Phelts. Your mission, if you decide to accept it, is to help round up some of the baddies by deploying ten Munzees today and capturing 20 tomorrow. And perhaps make 1000 points over the weekend. If any of you are captured or killed, Uncle Karl will disavow any knowledge of your actions. This paragraph will self-destruct in 10 seconds. Good luck, Jim.

OK, well maybe it won't self-destruct, but you can take on some possible and seemingly impossible missions which last from 3 days to an entire month. If you are like me and you need an extra little challenge, this could be it. When you finish a mission, you get a prize including more Zee Credits so you can do another future mission. And you can win cool badges which represent spy gadgets like infrared glasses and grappling hooks. Just another dimension to add to your game later to spice things up if you're a little bored. Or you just like spy stuff.

Other useful apps

At some time or another, you are going to need a little more than even the Munzee Version 3 app will let you do or see. This is where other apps can come to the rescue. They can extend your abilities even by one little thing and can make them worthwhile to have. And three of the most useful auxiliary apps are free on the app stores. Of course, I cannot guarantee that all three are available for all phone types, but it's worth a shot to look.

Zee

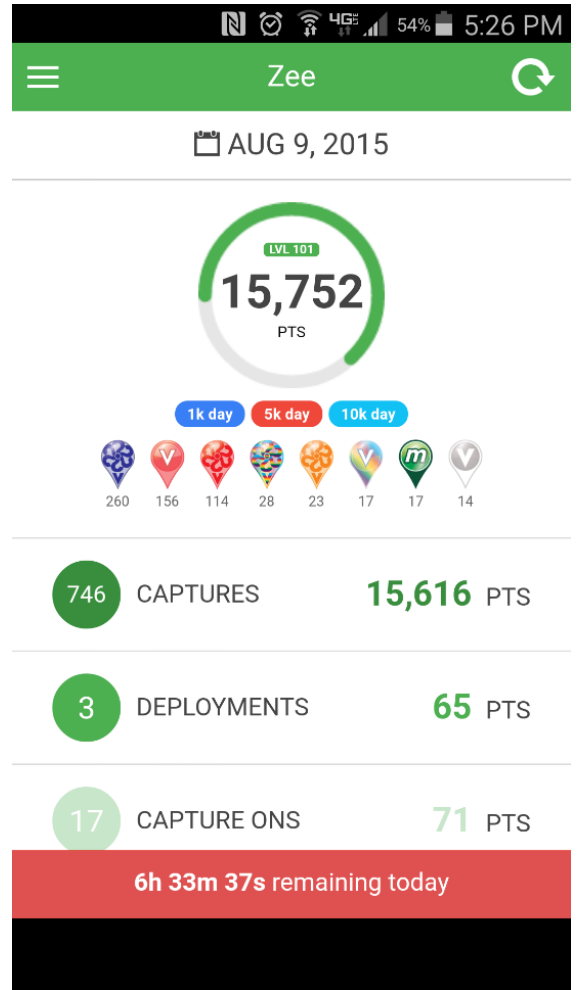
This app is made by the same team that created Munzee but it was made for a quick check of your daily points and to do conversions of Munzees in the field.

Here you can see that I had a great day on August 9th, scoring over 15,000 points. Below that, Zee shows that I had a 1K day, 5K day, and eventually got my 15K day badge (I already had the other two badges). I made 746 captures when I took the screenshot and 3 deployments. Below are the Capture On points too.

You can also see that I capped 260 blue Mystery Virtuals, and all the other types of Munzees that I captured. This is handy if you needed to capture a certain amount of a certain type for a badge or a clan war. I needed 100 regular green ones for the August 2015 clan goal, so I didn't do that part of the goal today. Good thing that I got so many points in general to help make up for it.

If I went back out to the main menu, I could see how I did all week as well as convert my Munzees to other types. So, if I won a mace in last month's clan wars, I could place a Munzee now in the Munzee app, then switch over to Zee to convert it, even if I wasn't a Premium member.

How can Munzee do this? Doesn't this cut into their operating capital as they could lose Premium Members? Well, it is advertising based, so you will see ads along the bottom of Zee. Oh, well. Ads are everywhere in society today, I suppose. Hey, the app is free. Quit your complaining. Uncle Karl doesn't want to hear it.

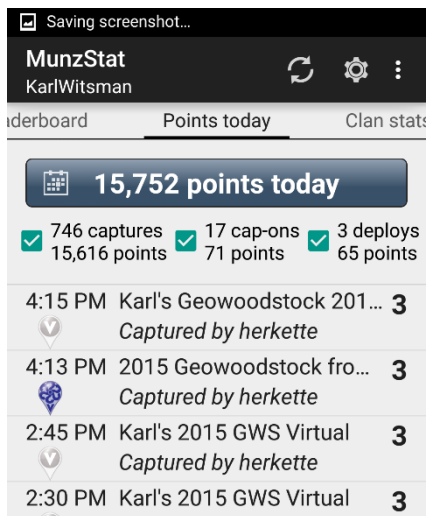


Oh, and if you are trying something crazy, like putting out 100 Munzees in one day to get that badge, you will get a countdown at the bottom of today's Zee screen to let you know just how behind you are and you had better get a move on, Sweetie!

MunzStat

I love loading up MunzStat in the evening while getting ready to watch television. OK, I also look at it in the morning, at lunch, maybe at break time, or even while I'm supposed to be working... OK, scratch that last bit. No way should you be checking this out while you are supposed to be working, folks. (There, I said it, the lawyers are happy now).

Whereas Zee gives you a list of points and what types of Munzees that you have capped, MunzStat gives you more information about each Munzee and more about your Cap Ons (when other Munzers capture your Munzees). You can even see what time they capped them.



on the boards and never at the beginning of the month. We usually squeak through at the very end on Level 3. Please don't judge my fellow clan members by this shot, they kicked "behind" the very next week.

Most of the time, though, MunzStat runs as a widget on your phone, keeping you up to date as you run from site to site. You don't even have to open the actual app to get use out of it!

MunzStat is on app stores from the company named Lakrisoft.

Leaderboard		Points to
You are #13 today		
6	LILYGRIMALDI	31,153
7	winkide	27,374
8	Ramor	26,572
9	csThanner	21,025
10	SachensucherHB	20,729
11	tpainter	16,538
12	ncc1701e	16,213
13	KarlWitsman	15,752
14	Eraleaa	15,463

There are three screens. One shows the Leaderboard and usually tells you that you are not in the top 100. The illustration here was a fluke, my best day yet.

The main page lists your activity and caps from others. You can touch each line to bring up information on that Munzee. I must do this if someone captures my Munzee that I haven't included the city name in. (Hint, hint)

The Clan Stats are great if you are trying to see which level each player is currently at. Eraleaa and I are never this high

The screenshot shows the MunzStat app interface with the 'Clan stats' tab selected. At the top, it says 'MunzStat KarlWitsman'. Below that, there are two tabs: 'Points today' and 'Clan stats'. The 'Clan stats' tab is selected, showing a yellow smiley face icon and the text 'OSM - Open Smilin... 51,855 points - rank 66'. Below this, there is a table with columns: 'Username', 'Liv e', 'Captur e', 'Deploy e on', 'Total Points', 'Greeni es', 'Deploy es', and 'Level'. The table lists several players and their stats.

Username	Liv e	Captur e	Deploy e on	Total Points	Greeni es	Deploy es	Level
KarlWitsman	no	20,587	480	100	21,167	19	3
Eraleaa	no	20,279	197	20	20,496	17	2
kaschper69	ye	1,850	750	60	2,660	44	12
forbidden72	ye	1,328	577	145	2,050	104	11
Rala	no	150	1,380	505	2,035	23	101
Team-MTB-OC	ye	861	826	180	1,867	102	17

GPS Status

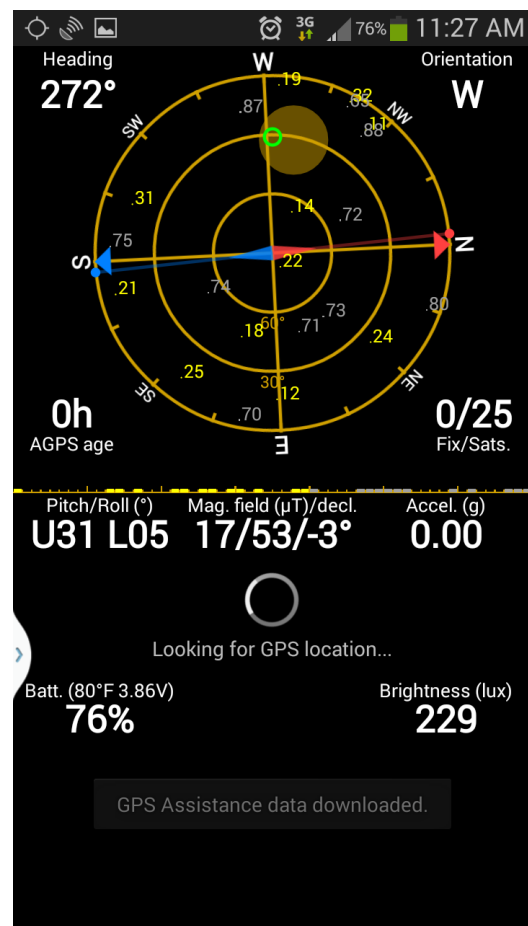
The third of our extra apps is called GPS Status from MobiWIA. There are a bunch of other apps that claim to do the same thing and some even have the same name but be sure to try MobiWIA's product first. I think that you'll find it so handy that you won't have to look any further.

GPS Status helps your GPS home in better and show better coordinates. Yes, I can hear that one guy already "But, Uncle Karl, doesn't that suck up all your battery power?" Well, it does use some of the battery, yes, but it is surprisingly less than you might expect. It runs each time that you turn on the screen, so you have some control of it and what it gives you in return for accuracy is well worth an extra charge per week. I find that there are times that I must turn this on and wait until I get an exact fix before I can accurately deploy a Munzee. At times like these, this tool is invaluable. Much easier than sending an email to support@munzee.com and asking someone there to move that Munzee that just deployed about 500 feet in the wrong direction. Embarrassing.

Most of the time, you just let GPS Status run in the background, but if you open the app, you can see what it is doing and play with the settings. Plus, if you pay a little extra, I think it was \$3, you get even more features like it tells you your battery temperature and percentage and also a reading of the light brightness in the area. You can see your heading, if that means something to you, and you can geek out to see the satellites appear as their numbers on the chart.

Currently, I am facing West (orientation) and I am right under GPS Satellite 22 with 71 and 73 just a little NE of me. The orange numbers have a better lock on you than the grey ones which are still trying to find you. Sweeeeeeet! Well, OK, I'm over-simplifying it, but you get the idea.

You can even tell your pitch and stuff that I don't need, but I like having it. I'm just that way. That little yellow circle is a level, so you can move your phone and/or self around to get level. Where the illustration says "Looking for GPS Location" will eventually show you your exact latitude and longitude if you use it outdoors and not in the hotel room like I did for the screenshot. Oops.



Secret Codes

If you Munzee-hunt long enough, you will either see strange abbreviations in the logs or on the Forums. This can be confusing, and many might be embarrassed to ask about them. Don't be. Everyone was new at one time. Here are a few of the most common ones.

FTC – First to capture

MHQ – Munzee Headquarters (kneel and bow three times towards Texas)

MO – This one is confusing for me, but it usually refers to Munzee Owner although in forums sometimes it refers to the person who started a thread of conversation. Sometimes we use OP, for Original Poster.

TFTM – Thanks for the Munzee. You will see this one a lot. Especially during the winter months in certain climates where you want to leave a 'thank you' but your frozen hands would not let you leave a long note as you are running back to the warm car.

MM – Mystery Munzee

VM – Virtual Munzee

DNF – Did Not Find and although this can be covered in the title of your note, maybe you don't want to say that it was lost; just that you were too busy running for the warm car and you didn't want to keep looking. Or there were too many Muggles (ordinary people) in the area to do a proper search.



“Little Free Libraries” are a popular place for their owners to put Munzees. You can also trade books and find a good read.

Common German phrases are:

lamp post: Laterne, Lichtmast or Licht

sign: Schild

below: darunter, von unten scannen

top: oben

bottom: unten

corner: Ecke

pile: Pfeiler

billboard: Werbung, Werbeträger, Werbeschild, Reklame

hydrant: Hydrant, Wasser, blau

gas: Gas, gelb

bench: Bank, Pause

mailbox: Post, gelb, Klappe halten

handrail: Geländer, Handlauf

dustbin: Müll, Abfall, Eimer

fence: Zaun

wall: Mauer, Hauswand

rainwater pipe: Fallrohr, Regenrohr

electrical box: Strom, E-Verteiler, E-Kasten, Verteilerkasten, Elektro...

Thanks to HBRB for the list!

The Munzee Widow(er)

You all know about Golf Widows, that long-suffering person who must clean house while their spouse is out golfing. I'm sure that the same thing happens with the spouses of geocachers and Munzee hunters. Here is one such story.

To Go or Not to Go ... That Is the Real Question

Or

Confessions of a Munzee Widow

By Donna Carlene

Since this booklet is for those who are interested in Munzees, this section is not for you. This section is for your wife/husband/partner/lover/person-who-shares-your-whatever.

So, when you're ready to get involved in Munzee-hunting, go tell them and try to explain yourself. Then give them this booklet open to this section and tell them "reading this will help." Then go fix them a coffee, tea, Coca Cola with rum or whatever-they-really-like-to-enjoy while they try to understand your latest decision.

Okay. Just you and me now? Because now you have to make some decisions here too. Are you or are you not going to be a Munzee widow(er)?

In a way, it's like deciding whether or not to be a golf widow, although usually they know ahead of time when someone plays golf and you don't. Golfing is an overt time-consumer. Munzee-hunting (and Geocaching, they're kind of connected) is covert. You can choose whether to go along on the hunt or not. Sometimes it's not even a choice of not going along. "You're going where? It's five freaking o'clock in the morning. Lock the door behind you." (Look out the window.) "In this rain/snow/fog?" "It's 100°/20° out there!" At least those are my excuses, uh ... reasons when I choose widowhood.

Sometimes you're just not interested in the game. And that's okay. You don't have to do everything together. Just smile and say, "see you later," and be prepared to hear how it went.

Sometimes I go, sometimes I stay home. Too early, too inclement, too far away, too too too. Just don't wanna.

I like Munzees slightly more than Geocaching. Munzees are usually in an urban area, or a "safe" area. Which means to me no up-and-down hills, no traipsing through weeds or spider-webbed thistles. Geocaching is usually marked as "easy," "medium," "hard," and such, but let's face it; your "easy" might be my "extreme."

The main thing about either one is looking out for non-hunters, which Geocachers call muggles, like in the Harry Potter books. It's probably not as important for Munzees as for Geocachers, since Geocaches tend to be physical things that can be taken.

Still, you don't want to be observed with your phone while scanning, say, the back of a stop sign. Even if you don't want to log in and admit online that you've actually gone out and looked for these things, you can still help locate them and then watch for muggles while the Munzee is being scanned.

If you like the mystery/espionage genre, you might like a safe taste of it by doing this. It can be a lot of fun to finally locate the "treasure" and be sure no one (especially the police who may or may not understand) sees you logging it.

Whether you become a widow(er) or you decide to join in, your life WILL change. Go with the flow. At least they're out hunting little pieces of laminated paper, instead of...other things that could get them into a lot of trouble.

Good luck, whether you become a widow(er) or an accomplice. You may now return this booklet to your hunter.

Note: Since writing this, Donna has captured a few Munzees herself. Before long, she even deployed one. This is how it starts, folks. Heh heh heh. I guess I better take her to the support group too.



Resources

Things in this game change very often, so here are some places that might help you keep up between editions of this book.

If you visited this website, you wouldn't even need this book! Thanks, Jennifer!

<https://sites.google.com/site/munzeestlouis/>

Still confused about the different types of Munzees?

http://www.frankbroughton.us/munzee_types.html

A high-quality video promoting Munzee:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb1x3lVhsTY&feature=player_embedded

The Skin Generator gives you the chance to put pretty backgrounds around your Munzee and to create a printed version of your Gold Munzee so you can keep the original:

<http://www.munzeeskinmachine.com/theskinmachine.php>

Weather-proof stickers for printing

http://www.amazon.com/3M-Weatherproof-Shipping-Printers-3800-S/dp/B004C0ILM8/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1347364366&sr=8-1&keywords=3m+weatherproof+labels

The GeoGearHeads podcast often talks about Munzee, and might be where I first heard about it.

<http://cacheamaniacs.com>

Want to print your own Munzees for less money?

<https://brilang.wordpress.com/2015/03/27/how-to-make-cheap-homemade-munzee-stickers/>

A neat blog about Munzee:

<http://cali49.com/munzee/>

A useful tool for finding special Munzees, measuring distances, seeing who is on the leaderboard:

<http://eeznum.co.uk/>

Another great tool:

<https://cuppazee.uk>

Sprechen Sie Deutsche?

<http://da-fi.de/category/munzee/>

Also, go to YouTube and look up the Geocaching Vlogger, he's got a bunch of videos about Munzee and his wild enthusiasm is contagious. Ewww, I think I got some on me....

Authorized Retail Outlets

Australia & New Zealand

- GEOLoggers - www.geologgers.com/shop

United Kingdom

- NE Geocaching Supplies UK - www.negeocachingsupplies.co.uk

Europe

- RUJA.dk - shop.ruja.dk

United States

- Munzee Madness - www.munzeemadness.com
- Space Coast Geocaching Store - www.scgastore.com
- D&D Game Zone - www.ddgamezone.com

About the authors

Karl Witsman is a Munzer and long-time geocacher. He has a job in IT which allows him to travel throughout most of Central and Northern Illinois, so he is lucky (depending on how you look at it). At least this travel allows him to be in different cities where Munzees have been deployed and he can spend his evenings and early mornings in pursuit of ammo cans and QR codes to capture.

Karl is also the author of ***The Audacity! (The Manual That Didn't Come with Your Audacity Software)*** and ***Shape Up Your Memory***, both available in print and eBook at Lulu.com.

Karl's alter ego is Uncle Karl, a curmudgeonly tech advisor with an acerbic wit and a weird sense of humor. Just think of him as your kindly, yet slightly creepy, uncle who is standing there with you to help you get the most out of your Munzee hunting. He might smell a bit of rum and cigars, but he's here to help!

You can contact Karl at karl.witsman@gmail.com or Premium Members can direct message him via Munzee.com. Or look for him on Facebook. He's not quite as mean as he seems in the book.

Donna Carlene has been story-telling for almost half a century, and writing for almost as long. She is a member of Women Writers of Fiction and Essays, co-founder and Secretary/Treasurer of the Illiana Writers and Co-founder and President of the National Writers Group.

Her publishing credits include: Monthly columns in The Writers' Newsletter and the CPU Computers Newsletter, reviews in Compute Gazette, short stories in the anthologies: *Sunlight and Shadow*, *I Write, Therefore I Am? I Am!*, *Beware! Annual WWOFE Outings*(1993), and *The U.S.S. BortaS Final Frontier* the (sci-fi newsletter)

She has also had two booklets of poetry: ***Erindonia*** and ***Fantasies of My Soul***, as well as two books of the ***Hunters Ridge*** series and her new book ***Walls***.

She also has an alter ego: Aunt Donna, long-suffering but witty co-conspirator with, and balance to, Uncle Karl.

She is currently living in Central Illinois in her own "castle" with her husband and cats.