Summer Vacation!

This summer, a few members of The National Map Corps had the opportunity to visit some interesting places! We thought it would be fun to share our travels with you:

ERIN

As a geographer, a trip to the southernmost point in the continental United States was a required stop when visiting Key West, FL. The anchored concrete buoy is a tourist attraction and on the day I visited there was a long line of people waiting to take their picture with it. I snapped a picture of the buoy and the beautiful setting, but skipped the long line. According to Wikipedia, it is one of the most visited and photographed attractions in Key West, and it graces many of the souvenirs available in the countless tourist shops. From this point, you are closer to Cuba than to Miami, FL. Wikipedia also says that the actual southernmost point in the continental US is 10 miles away at Ballast Key. However, that is a privately owned island and visitors are not allowed. Surprisingly, many geographic point of interest tourist spots are not in the exact location of the actual point of interest.

Years ago while studying abroad in Ecuador (Equator in Spanish) we visited the equator monument(s). Yes, that is right, there are two and both claim to be on the actual equator. There are many interesting examples of this. It just goes to show that mapping can be tricky, it isn’t always completely black and white, and accuracy and precision are always improving.
SAM

The Great Sand Dunes National Park - A Mountaineer’s Beach! Over spring break, everyone dreams of vacationing at a sandy beach, right? Instead of a sandy beach, this spring Sam explored a sandy mountain, otherwise known as the Great Sand Dunes National Park - the perfect beach for mountaineers!!

The Great Sand Dunes are the tallest sand dunes in North America. The sands that form the dunes are remnants of a sand sheet that was left behind when Lake Alamosa fell subject to natural climate change. The predominant southwest winds through the San Luis valley now pick up remnants of the sand sheet and deposits sand at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains as the winds are lifted over the mountain range.

EMILY

Port Angeles, Washington - Although many people probably don’t have the small town of Port Angeles on their vacation destination radar, it’s a pretty interesting place! Not only is it the birthplace of NFL legend John Elway, but it is home to the main Olympic National Park visitor’s center! Emily spent a couple of days there in early June to see her husband off on a sea kayaking expedition down the Washington coast.

If you’ve also had the opportunity to do some travelling this summer, we’d love to hear from you! Send us a picture from your summer vacation with a short description to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov and we’ll feature you in our September newsletter! Don’t forget to use the subject line “TNMCorps Summer Vacation” to make sure we receive your contributions. We look forward to hearing from you!
Volunteer Spotlight: meyerkv

Some locations are more difficult to edit than others, and Puerto Rico can be especially tricky! Our tenacious volunteer, meyerkv, has made it a personal mission to systematically work through the structures data in Puerto Rico and we greatly appreciate his efforts! This is some challenging data, so why does he do it?

In his own words:

“I was halfway through editing the great state of Maryland when I realized I was getting bored. No criticism of Maryland but after completing mapping goals for West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, I wanted to try something different and more challenging. Looking around the National Map I saw that the locations in the eastern Caribbean were untouched. The first step was to take a small bite, i.e. the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). The USVI is far smaller than Puerto Rico thus more manageable. Also, both territories are adjacent to each other so I hoped there would be some similarities in the types of structures. After taking the lessons learned from USVI, I returned to editing Maryland but that got old the 2nd time around within hours so I started working on Puerto Rico. I have been plugging away since. It has been every bit as challenging and more than I expected.”

Thanks for taking on the challenge, meyerkv!

Tips and Tricks for Editing in Puerto Rico

If you’ve been itching to take an island vacation (even just a virtual one), look no further than Puerto Rico! Volunteer meyerkv has been working hard to verify the structures in PR, but there’s still much work to be done! If you’ve been inspired to follow in meyerkv’s footsteps, be sure to keep these tips and tricks in mind (continued on page 4).
1. It might seem like an obvious detail, but don’t forget that Spanish is the primary language of Puerto Rico!

Most feature names and many authoritative websites are in Spanish. Google translate (or a similar tool) can be a great resource. Use the name as found on the authoritative website AND in the language of the authoritative website.

**IMPORTANT:** If the structure names are in Spanish, please use Spanish when adding the name or address in the editor. If you have used Google translate or similar to translate the website, you will need to “un-translate” the website to see the name as it should be written in Spanish.

**Special Characters**

Some Spanish words contain special characters. You may either include these or leave them out.

Watch out for existing points that had a special character that has gotten “scrambled” at some point.

**Example:** Estación De La Policía El Tuque

The special character "ó" was at some point turned into a "?." You could replace this with the accented letter "ó" or just an "o," Estación or Estacion.

**Special characters can be added by holding down the “Alt” key on your keyboard, while typing in the following codes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>á</td>
<td>Alt + 0225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>é</td>
<td>Alt + 0233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>í</td>
<td>Alt + 0237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ó</td>
<td>Alt + 0243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ú</td>
<td>Alt + 0250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ň</td>
<td>Alt + 0241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>Alt + 0252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>Alt + 0161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Grade levels and the word “School” are missing from most school names

If possible, find an authoritative website and make sure the name entered is complete. A complete name typically includes the grade level and the word “School” (or “Escuela”). Remember, in Spanish, the word “school” comes before the actual name of the school.

**Example:** ‘Lucy Grillasca’ or ‘Lucy School Grillasca’ should be ‘Escuela Lucy Grillasca’

3. Many features have incomplete information or abbreviated names

You may run across features that only have abbreviations for names, such as C.S.F.E. These features may take more research than normal. If you are able to verify them, remove the abbreviation and add the whole name as found from an authoritative source. You may also find some features with names that appear to have been “cut off,” such as the word ‘hospital’ in the following example:

Name

Hosp Industrial C.F.S.E.

This name should be changed to ‘Hospital Industrial Corporación del Fondo del Seguro del Estado’

http://web.fondopr.com/

4. PO, RR, or HC Boxes should be deleted

These abbreviations are sometimes seen at the end of a physical address. If you see them, please delete them.
Tips and Tricks for Editing in Alaska

Have you ever been to the state of Alaska? If you haven’t, TNMCorps Editor provides the perfect venue for taking a virtual trip!! Many of Alaska’s unedited structures are in small, rural towns adjacent to forests and/or wilderness. Mapping those structures provides insight into the different cultures and lifestyles in Alaskan communities, many of which are only accessible by water.

Confirming a Structure Exists: Authoritative Sources in Alaska
Smaller community agencies often don’t have the resources to maintain a robust website or collect detailed information. This can prove challenging for editors trying to locate an authoritative source. Some of the resources TNMCorps staff uses in these situations include Facebook, Alaska DCCED, Alaska DPS, and Alaska EED. Keep reading for more information about these resources (continued on page 6).
FACEBOOK - Small organizations sometimes create Facebook pages for their virtual presence while others have no virtual presence at all. If search results produce a Facebook page, make sure the page is "official" before using its information to update a point.

**UNOFFICIAL PAGE**
- Indicates page was automatically created
- Not being maintained
- Very few visits

**OFFICIAL PAGE**
- Customized profile images
- Customized photos
- Recent posts

**How can you tell if a Facebook page is official?**
**ALASKA DCCED** - Alaska’s [Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development](https://www.dcced.alaska.gov) (DCCED) often lists public service entities in a community. This can be helpful for confirming whether a structure exists.

**ALASKA DPS** - Alaska’s [Department of Public Safety](https://www.dps.alaska.gov) (DPS) has a directory of fire departments that helps confirm whether a fire department exists. Most addresses in the directory are PO boxes, so it’s not very useful for confirming exact locations. Alas, it helps to confirm the official title of a fire department and whether users should keep or remove a point.

**ALASKA EED** - Alaska’s [Education & Early Development](https://www.eed.alaska.gov) (EED) website has a directory of public schools in the state. The directory also provides physical addresses, which makes it quite useful for confirming both a structure’s official name and exact location.

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**Confirming a Structure’s Location: Aerial Imagery in Alaska**

Confirming the correct location of a structure can be very challenging in Alaska’s small rural towns. This is to be expected but rest assured, we have some tips and tricks to help!

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**Notice the difference in imagery resolutions??**

That's because detailed aerial photography is available at larger (aka closer) scales here...

... but not here.
Alaska DCCED provides an interactive set of aerals for smaller communities. While they don’t necessarily provide street views, Alaska Community Profile Maps do allow you to zoom in far enough to distinguish buildings.
TNMCorps News

**TNMCorps Cryptogram!**

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| W | T | T | AT | A | EN | W | P | X | W | K | A | T | Q | O | Q | B | C | A | T | T | A |

**See bottom of page for solution**

http://www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker/

**Past Puzzle Keys**

**May 2017 Newsletter**

Across
7. A nearly extinct sub-species of cartographer **Cartograsaurus**
9. 32.9929, -81.3243 feature **Swallow Savanna Cemetery**
10. Recognition category given to volunteers who have edited 1000 to 1999 points **Alidade Alliance**

Down
1. Home of the Tebbetts Post Office **Missouri**
2. 33.0344, -108.7052 feature **Buckhorn Post Office**
3. Greenmount Cemetery city **Durango**
4. 35.9399, -80.1055 feature **This is still a mystery since there does not appear to be a feature at this location! Please accept our apologies for this mistake!**
5. Maringouin Post Office state **Louisiana**
6. The month TNMCorps launched the new map editor **August**
8. Data represented by an icon with a red border **unedited**

**March 2017 Newsletter**

ADVANCED EDITOR
AUTHORITATIVE WEBSITE
CARTOGRASARUS
Cemetery
COORDINATES
DELETE
HIGH SCHOOL
HOSPITAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
POST OFFICE
PRISON
RECOGNITION
SAVE
STANDARD EDITOR
STRUCTURES DATA
THE NATIONAL MAP CORPS
TOPO MAPS
US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Cryptogram Solution: New to The National Map Corps? Head to the southeast to map points!
Have a story or photo you’d like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the “public domain,” and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

Name that App!

We’ve been calling the new editor, “new editor” or “TNMCorps Map Editor”. But we could really use some help in coming up with a creative name! If you have any suggestions for a name for our online editor, please email your suggestions to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

New Recognition Category Members

- **Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)**
  - Mr Ballwin

- **Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)**
  - Cassie Tammy Wang
  - geo163

- **Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)**
  - SD Michael

- **Stadia Board Society (500-999)**
  - Mmbbekka
  - USGSTaylor
  - TSDNAV

- **Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)**
  - Mmbbekka
  - Peregrine
  - TSDNAV

- **Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)**
  - Mr Ballwin

- **Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)**
  - ChrisColeman
  - jordanskordahl

- **Circle of the Surveyor’s Compass (200-499)**
  - ChrisColeman
  - jordanskordahl

- **Pedometer Posse (100-199)**
  - ChrisColeman
  - awatters
  - derrickdgregory

- **Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)**
  - ChrisColeman
  - TUFFYJCW
  - derrickdgregory

- **Order of the Surveyor’s Chain (25-49)**
  - ChrisColeman
  - TUFFYJCW
  - derrickdgregory

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.