

Member Spotlight

This Member Spotlight focuses on a HOC Member that has found a unique way to stay active and encourage others in the Club to participate in a unique form of exercise, both physically and mentally. Hunting Munzees!

Bernie Ver Hey and his wife, Judi, own a Heartland Big Country and enjoy traveling the US and Canada and of course, attending lots of Heartland Rallies. Bernie is known as "Happykraut" on the Forum, and also in the geocaching and Munzee world. He was born and raised in Germany and came to the US at the age of 14. When he was older, he was employed by McDonnell Douglas (later Boeing) and retired from there 13 years ago. He enjoys hunting, fishing, geocaching and doing the Munzee thing, but not necessarily in that order!

What is Munzee?

Bernie explained that Munzee is a scavenger hunt game where items are found in the real world and captured using your smartphone. Points are obtained by capturing other player's Munzees, deploying one of your own Munzees or when your deployed Munzees are captured by someone else.

Munzee is similar to geocaching and is also played all over the world.

A Munzee is a QR-code similar to a barcode. It must be weather proofed through lamination or printed on water proof paper with a laser printer. Munzees can be glued unto various items, hung in trees, on fences or stapled to different surfaces. They can be camouflaged or even in plain view. They can also be placed into



Bernie Ver Hey (Happykraut), HOC Member and Munzee Aficionado.

containers much like a geocache. They can also be found at your favorite local businesses.

What is needed to Munzee?

An iPhone, Android or Windows Mobile platform based smartphone. Blackberry and GPS devices are not supported.

How is Munzee played?

First, download the Munzee app for your smartphone and fill out the online application. The app will show you a map or a list of Munzees as well as clues about that Munzee and how far away it is. Once you locate a Munzee, click on the capture

button on your app and focus on the Munzee with your camera. The app will read the QR code and check your current location via GPS to verify that you are at the Munzee. Points are awarded for each capture, deploying one of


your Munzees and capture by another person of your Munzees. Be sure to leave it there for the next players to find!

What are the benefits?

Playing Munzee gets you out of the house and into the outdoors. Keeps you active. Make new friends that also play the game. Gives you a good reason to pull into rest areas, to capture or deploy a Munzee or two, after you've been pulling your Heartland for miles and miles. Occasionally there are promotional Munzee days or weekends where prizes are awarded for capturing certain Munzees.

Who plays Munzees?

Anyone with a smartphone and wants to have fun and/or enjoys a little exercise.

But beware, it's addictive! Many HOC Members who are Munzee hunters have taken much longer to get to their destination, especially if Bernie has already traveled their route—Just as Roy and Sally (olcoon)! Thank you Bernie, for sharing this with us. We have another way to connect with fellow Members as we travel. 

edited by **Erika Dorsey**,
Heartland Highlights Editor



Munzee can be played all over the world!