

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

February 2019

FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

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President: **Mark Schuessler**

Vice President: **Ed Burke**

Treasurer: **John Howard**

Secretary: **Frank Colletti**

Legislative Officer:
Position Open

Membership Chair:
Position Open

Website Maintenance:
Trinna Pitts

North Region: **Debbie Buxton**
*Alaska, Washington, Oregon,
Idaho, Montana, Wyoming,
North Dakota, South Dakota,
Minnesota, Wisconsin,
Michigan, New York, Vermont,
Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode
Island, Maine, Canada*

Central Region: **Don Hayes**
*Nevada, Utah, Colorado,
Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa,
Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,
Kentucky, West Virginia,
Virginia, Pennsylvania, New
Jersey, Delaware, Maryland*

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc. (FMDAC) was organized in 1984 as a legislative and educational organization and incorporated, as a non-profit, non-commercial, non-partisan organization.

The Mission: The FMDAC is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection for the hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting.

The Purpose: To unite, promote and encourage the establishment of metal detecting clubs. To preserve the sport / hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting. To make available to FMDAC clubs and Independent members information pertaining to the hobby and to keep members informed as to active legislation.

The Goal: is to Educate and inform the public as to the merits of recreational metal detecting.

What is a News Gram? The news gram provides a brief look into news events for the past month. The intent of the news gram is to provide you, the FMDAC reader, with news clips on what took place in the hobby last month. The News Gram is configured like a webpage and must be read online for the article links to work.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President's Message

Hello All.

On Jan 4 The FMDAC lost our membership chairman and a past president. Sue Race lost her husband. The hobby lost a "personality" and many of us lost a friend. Mike Race passed away from a heart attack. This was following three surgeries in less then a month and one day after the last. Mike and his wife Sue have been involved with the FMDAC since its founding back in 1984.

Mike and Sue have traveled extensively around the USA. They have been traveling to hunts for several decades. Wherever they went they easily made friends with their outgoing personalities and would jump in and lend a hand wherever needed. Mike was known for his tie dyed shirts and fondness for raffles. He won a lot of raffles but he also bought a lot of tickets. He was one of the most generous people I know. Not hesitating to make donations wherever he thought they were needed. Last year at Treasure Week while I was deciding what coins to place in a raffle, he left for a minute. When he returned he handed me a gold coin and said "my donation for the raffle". Then he bought a bunch of tickets on it! I would like to say that incident sums up Mike but it dose not even come close. Those who knew him know what I mean.

I first met Mike and Sue in the mid 80's. My wife hit it off with Sue at a hunt and we were invited to dinner at their campsite that evening. We have been friends since. I learned of Mikes passing during set up day at the American Digger Civil War Show in Charleston. Mike and Sue had been there to help us out the three previous years. We were waiting to hear how he had made it through the surgeries. Instead it was stunned silence among those present.

Mike was a proud military veteran having retired from the Air Force in 1991. Following that he retired from an IT position at a VA hospital. Sue retired at the same time from the same place and they hit the road in an RV. They made a couple trips around the USA seeing the sites, detecting and meeting people. Mike was known to walk around the campgrounds giving Civil War bullets to the kids and explaining their significance.

Treasure Week will just not be the same. It was probably 20 years ago when Mike and Sue started cooking breakfast. I do not recall exactly how it got started. Mike would cook up bacon, sausage and eggs to order. Whether scrambled or an every thing omelet it was there for the asking. Sue would man the pancake griddle and warmers. Everyone would chip in some food supplies or cash. They did not limit it to our own hungry hoard, anyone in the campground was welcome. Alas all good things come to an end. Although the breakfast has ended I am willing to bet that there will be many of us meeting up under the "breakfast" pavilion for morning coffee for years to come.

In addition to breakfast Mike had become the Treasure Week photographer and newsletter editor. At the end of each day Mike would put together a sheet filled with photo highlights of the day. Of course it quite often featured a "selfie" of Mike winning raffles!

In the end we are left with a lot of fond memories. Rest in Peace Mike. You will be missed.

So that brings me to part two. We are now left without a membership chairman. Please be patient while we fill the position and get back on track. I have received the files from Sue and will be looking at them ASAP. In the meantime if you are interested in taking on the position of membership chairman then please contact me [email](#). We need to get it filled

South Region: **Art Di Filippo**
California, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida

ASAP. This is your opportunity to help out the organization. Consider taking a turn and helping out the hobby.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

Jewelry Returns

- 1987 Class Ring Found In Arkansas Lake. [Article Link](#)
- A metal detector and a mission. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds couple's engagement ring with a metal detector nearly a month after they lost it in the sand on a Costa Rican beach. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorists help Wendover couple get engaged. [Article Link](#)
- Woman searches for owner of 1968 Muskogee class ring. [Article Link](#)
- Veteran's Missing ID Tags Found By Charleston Man Using Metal Detector. [Article Link](#)
- 'My Angel': Cape Cod Ring Finder Pulls Off Christmas Miracle. [Article Link](#)

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Time in a bottle: Students with rare hobby plans Stamford club. [Article Link](#)
- Search for owner of 1960s wedding ring found in bay. [Article Link](#)
- A metal detector and a mission. [Article Link](#)
- Part of ancient death mask containing 'space metal' discovered in Florida. [Article Link](#)
- Father-Son Team Unearths Beach 'Treasure'. [Article Link](#)
- Searching for buried history. [Article Link](#)
- R.I. Relics founder fears metal detecting hobby is under siege. [Article Link](#)
- The Fellowship of the Ring Finders. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting enthusiast finds British coin from 1826. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters club donates record \$10,000 to Food Pak program. [Article Link](#)
- Man Seeks Owner of Lost Ring Using Metal Detector. [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: Team 'strike gold' as they uncover Dan Blankenship's u-shaped structure. [Article Link](#)
- Overview of Metal Detecting in CNY topic of meeting. [Article Link](#)
- Niagara's treasure hunters on the hunt for buried booty. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Why More TV Shows Should Learn from the Beautiful Simplicity of 'Detectorists'. [Article Link](#)
- How two metal detectorists discovered a complete Roman treasure. [Article Link](#)
- US petition calls for Lincolnshire man to have his own TV show following Oak Island success. [Article Link](#)
- Norfolk's hidden treasures luring American metal detector tourists. [Article Link](#)
- Man hides engagement ring for his partner on Whittington metal detecting trip. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Finds Reach Record High. [Article Link](#)
- The treasure of a 'traitor': Amateur metal detectorist unearths 350-year-old ring that belonged to King Charles II's courtier who was hung, drawn and quartered after being FRAMED for treason in 1678. [Article Link](#)
- Meifod history group will welcome treasure hunting duo. [Article Link](#)
- The tourism of detectorists. [Article Link](#)
- Haul of historic jewellery and weapons found in Swansea declared treasure. [Article Link](#)
- 'Pirate ship' hand grenade discovered near 17th-century wreck site. [Article Link](#)

Other News Sources

- **American Mining Rights Assn** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [January News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [Website](#)
- **JW Fishers Mfg.** - NR310 JW Fishers' Pulse 8X continues to outperform the competition 32 years later. [January Article](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [January News](#)
- **PLP -Public Lands for the People** [Website](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [Newsletter](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Archaeologists to Monitor Construction in Deadwood. [Article Link](#)
- Dozens report seeing meteor over Maine, northern New England. [Article Link](#)
- A new clue could explain the mysterious disappearance of a Civil War submarine. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists Find Ancient Tool in Area That Can Unlock Age. [Article Link](#)
- A site thought to be linked to the Lost Colony is now part of a new state nature preserve. [Article Link](#)
- New book sheds light on Harvard's forgotten 1931 archaeology trek in eastern Utah. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Watch the moon get rocked by a meteorite during this weekend's lunar eclipse. [Article Link](#)
- Dozens report seeing meteor over Maine, northern New England. [Article Link](#)
- Three large asteroids prompt NASA to issue near Earth object alert. [Article Link](#)
- Sisters find possible meteorite on Silver Beach. [Article Link](#), [2nd Article Link](#)
- What was that fireball that flew across the East Coast sky Wednesday morning? [Article Link](#)
- Meteor seen flying over New Zealand. [Article Link](#)
- Greenland crater: Huge crater the size of Paris FOUND under Greenland's ice. [Article Link](#)

- Metal-detecting Americans pay £1,500 to hunt for buried treasure on holiday in UK. [Article Link](#), [2nd News Article](#)

Hunt Events and Shows

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

Other Hobby Related 2019 Show Calendars

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismaster Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)

- February 08, 2019 (Three Days)
Ironwood, Quartzsite, Arizona
Quartzsite Gold Show
- February 09, 2019 (Two Days)
Monroe, Washington
2019 Gold, Gem & Mineral Show
Washington Prospectors Mining Assn

- February 15, 2019 (Three Days)
Albany, Oregon
Willamette Sportsman Show
MID VALLEY PROSPECTORS
- February 16, 2019 (One Day)
Galveston, Texas
37th Annual Open Beach Hunt
Houston Archeology Recovery Clubs

[Select here to View
the Complete Event Details for October](#)

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

R.I. Relics founder fears metal detecting hobby is under siege

By NICOLE DOTZENROD, Valley Breeze Staff Writer [Web Link](#)

LINCOLN – Would you allow someone to hunt for metal on your property? The response from many people is “no,” says Nathan Matthews, of Lincoln.

“I always ask permission, but it’s starting to seem like less and less people are OK with metal detecting,” he said. “It’s starting to become a major issue. More and more people look down on it now.”

Matthews, who runs Rhode Island Relics, a licensed and insured metal detecting group running annual events in the area, feels squeezed out of the town and state that he calls home, no longer welcome to partake in the hobby even on public lands.

He said he was first asked to stop metal detecting on the properties abutting the Chase Farm Park this fall, and was then booted from Lincoln Woods State Park shortly thereafter. Most recently, he said police officers asked him not to return to a spot he had been detecting near for years because he was passing through private property.

Matthews believes that under state legislation, a “no trespassing” sign must be posted on public land not owned by a land trust, otherwise someone can metal detect there (excluding residential properties, which require the owner’s permission).

For their part, members of the Lincoln Police Department say they have made no official directives regarding metal detecting. Capt. Philip Gould, the department’s public information officer, said there’s nothing on record prohibiting metal detecting on public property as long as detectorists obey local ordinances and avoid digging up the town’s sports complexes.

“Unless they’re metal detecting after hours or damaging property, we have no problem with it,” he said. “I don’t see a public danger with metal detecting as long as you’re abiding by local ordinances and being respectful of private property.”

The Lincoln Police Department doesn’t have jurisdiction over Lincoln Woods, which houses Rhode Island State Police barracks. When asked for comment, state police directed questions to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

A spokeswoman for RIDEM noted the law regarding metal detecting in state parks and management areas mandates that metal detectors or other location devices be “restricted to designated areas during specified time periods.”

Matthews, who has been asked to cease detecting on certain lands by RIDEM, said detectorists should be working with RIDEM, land trusts and local historical societies to recover “the history in the ground.” Instead, “they want it to stay lost in the ground forever,” he said.

“We just want to find the history for them,” he said. “It’s not about making money or finding treasure. A one-cent piece isn’t even worth a penny at this rate. You may find a coin but the value is virtually worthless ... but it has serious historical significance.”

Matthews said the negative perception of metal detecting is not limited to Lincoln. While he noted that Cumberland’s former Mayor Bill Murray was welcoming and that managers of Franklin Farm never shut their doors to the metal detecting community, the rest of the town is not as welcoming.

“Go anywhere else in Cumberland and see what they say about metal detecting,” he said. “It’s all over the state. Now, as a metal detector you’d better prepare to drive three to four hours to find a place to metal detect.”

After his group hosted a “seeded hunt” at Franklin Farm last spring, a neighbor called to complain that they’d destroy the landscape.

“The reality is, hundreds of people show up, dig proper holes, remove trash and provide a history of the area,” Matthews said. Rhode Island Relics is planning another “Pound the Ground” event at the farm in April.

Matthews donates recovered relics to historical organizations or interested individuals.

“I don’t need 5,000 buckles,” he said. “If someone allows me to search their property, I always say they can keep what I find. I just want to take pictures for our Facebook page to promote the history.”

He said he also collects and properly disposes of bottles, trash and other urban waste in his travels, even disposing of heroin needles recovered from parks and playgrounds around the state.

“The thing that’s starting to stress me out is that we’re not hurting anybody. If there was any sort of criminal activity to worry about, it certainly wasn’t metal detecting,” said Matthews. “For some reason people are considering a passion for finding history in the ground criminal activity. It doesn’t make sense to me.”

