

# Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

## FMDAC News Gram

## United States Metal Detecting Association

July 2018

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 1 Number 9



FMDAC

[Website](#)  
[Donations](#)  
[FaceBook](#)  
[Forum](#)

[How To Join](#)  
[Hunts & Events](#)  
[Member Clubs](#)  
[Organization](#)  
[State Park Regulations](#)  
[Target Recovery Methods](#)

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Secretary: **Frank Colletti**

Legislative Officer:  
**Position Open**

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**Mike & Sue Race**

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.

I hope everyone is getting out swinging their detectors more than I have. Half way through the year already and I can count on one hand with some fingers left over the number of times I have been out detecting. Too many projects going on.

One of those projects is the upcoming Treasure Week at Fox Den Acres Campground in New Stanton, PA. This is where we will hold our inaugural target recovery course. We have seen a lot of interest. Once we have completed the initial course we will evaluate it and make any necessary changes. We already have 2 requests for the program. When set we will announce those. In addition we hope to get some videos on YouTube covering the material in the course.

This course is for recovering targets in lawn areas such as parks and schools. One tool you will not find in this course is a shovel. It is the wrong tool for a park. I cannot figure out where the mentality came from that it is ok to use one in a park. It has become rampant in videos with people defending their use. THERE IS NO DEFENSE. I don't care if you claim to do a good job. I have yet to see a good job done on the internet. Bottom line is it looks really bad in appearance.

We will be discussing making an addition to our code of ethics to add that shovels are not to be used in any public lawn area. When most codes were created many years ago it was not put in. Why? It was not even remotely on the radar. No one would think of doing such a thing. It was so far out of the realm of reality that it was not thought of. Well times they are a changing. We ask that FMDAC clubs, and any club, add it to their code of ethics. Make it known to club members that shovels in parks is not acceptable.

The FMDAC has spent over 30 years working to protect the hobby. I myself have about 20 years of doing so. Now we see that the biggest threat may be coming from within. If this cancer is not stopped it will severely hurt the hobby. Some of the videos online are so bad that I cannot even remotely call them target recovery. They have even surpassed property damage and went right to vandalism. Newcomers are watching this and think it is proper. I saw a comment recently on facebook that said "How do you dig without a shovel?" I did not make that up.

There is at least one person who has posted a video teaching people to use a shovel in a park. Attempting to claim that it is different than a shovel. It's not a garden spade he says. Just because the tool did not come from a hardware store does not mean that it is not a shovel. I don't care if it is a "specialized" tool made for the metal detecting hobby. If it looks like a shovel then it IS a shovel.

If you care about this hobby then start acting to protect it. Do not praise those shovel videos. I don't care what they dig. Tell them to use a proper tool and learn how to properly recover a target. If enough people do it and stop watching them maybe they will get the message. If I sound a little gruff, well I am. I am tired and fed up with people within this hobby who just don't get it. Who are insistent on making up their own code that is far out of line with the long time accepted practices of the hobby. Having to fight forces from the outside is hard enough without having to fight people in the very hobby we are working to protect. I can tell you this just speaking for myself. I have NOT spent a lot of my own time and money protecting this hobby so that someone can dig in a park with a shovel.

Lets us all work together to put a stop to these actions. The hobby you save will be your own.  
Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President's Message

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

#### Michael Race, FMDAC Membership Chairman

Hello All.< br /> My job in the F.M.D.A.C. is Membership Chairman. That is maintaining a data base of all the members. There are 3 ways you can join the Federation, 1) as a club member, 2) as an Independent member or, 3) as a manufacturer.

If you are a Club Member, we require 5 members. You will have a CM under your name on your club card or PR for President, VP for Vice President, SE for Secretary and so on, for your membership you pay \$5.00.

If you are an Independent you will have an IM under you name on your club card and you pay \$10.00 for 1 year membership.

If you are a manufacture or a dealer you will have an S-SM under your name and you pay \$25.00 for 1 year membership.

We ask that you print clearly because we want to be accurate when we print your Membership Card.  
Michael Race, Membership Chairman

#### News

In today's NEHGS (New England Historical Genealogical Society) email newsletter, is a link to a story about stone walls in New England. I found it pretty interesting, especially the part about using lidar (light detection and ranging) to map the existence of these walls (and foundations - my note) thru forested leaf canopies. Here is the [Story Web Link](#)

Jim M., Librarian - Massachusetts Treasure Hunting Association

Mel Fisher Days [Web Link](#)

July 12-14, 2018

Each year a celebration is held to commemorate Mel Fisher's famous 16-year search for the Spanish galleon Atocha which lead to a \$450 million dollar treasure discovery in the waters just off Key West. A series of events are scheduled that will run from July 13-15, 2017. 100% of all net proceeds from these events will benefit Wesley House Family Services, Inc.

#### General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Detecting a hobby that can have value. [Article Link](#)
- Keep a Few Coins In Your Wallet When You Go Adventuring Outdoors. [Article Link](#)
- Drain the Oceans: Sunken Treasures. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Hunter Looks for Shipwrecks Near Miami Using a Map Drawn From Space. [Article Link](#)
- Using Metal Detectors to Help Campers with Brain Injuries. [Article Link](#)
- Police 'Render Safe' Grenade in West Ky. Man Found While Metal Detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Man's hobby has a nice ring to it. [Article Link](#)
- Stealth Diggers delve deep into local history. [Article Link](#)
- Looking For Something? This Triad Metal Detectorists Club May Be Able To Help. [Article Link](#)
- Historic find: Man finds 1916 deputy badge buried in Florida park. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter Sandy Thuet at next Fireside Chat. [Article Link](#)
- Children search for treasure at Menifee's. [Article Link](#)
- Burt to the rescue as supermodel's ring is recovered. [Article Link](#)
- 4 Japanese treasure hunters arrested in Capones island. [Article Link](#)
- Who is 'E.M.L.'? Mysterious 1990 Bergenfield class ring found in Alabama. [Article Link](#)

#### Other News

- **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. [June News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [June News](#)
- **Lost Treasure E-Magazine** [June Issue](#)
- **PLP- Public Lands for the People** [June News Release](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [June News](#)
- **White's Discover** [May/June Magazine](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [July Newsletter](#)

#### Jewelry Returns

- Corwen man's wedding ring found in treasure hunt. [Article Link/a>](#)
- [Leicester man finds long-lost class ring of Cushing Academy alum. Article Link](#)
- Wedding ring in Mission Beach sand found. [Article Link](#)
- Ardmore Man Reunited With Stolen Ring After 26 Years. [Article Link](#)
- Corwen man's wedding ring found in treasure hunt. [Article Link](#)
- The officer uses a metal detector to locate a Pennsylvania woman's missing ring. [Article Link](#)

#### North America Archaeology News

- How Climate Change Could Destroy Thousands of Archaeological Sites. [Article Link](#)
- In digging for Shaker remnants, history unearthed, veterans find avenue of rehabilitation. [Article Link](#)
- Jamestown Unearthed: Cellar under church catches experts by surprise. [Article Link](#)

#### U.K. News

- Warning over nighthawk raiders using metal detectors in search for treasure on Hadrian's Wall. [Article Link](#)
- Bomb disposal called after old mortar found in Barnoldswick. [Article Link](#)

- Precious finds at ancient Polish site. [Article Link](#)
- Man discovers 600-year-old dress fitting on mum's farm in Mablethorpe area. [Article Link](#)
- Winfarthing's Anglo-Saxon treasure to stay in Norfolk. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure trove includes relic left by 10th Century Viking raiders. [Article Link](#)
- Anglo-Saxon treasure found in Norfolk field saved for nation and will go on show at Norwich Castle. [Article Link](#)
- 'Treasure trove' discovered at ancient fort destroyed by Vikings. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure of the first Christian King of Denmark found with metal detectors. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorist finds unexploded bomb on Teignmouth seafront. [Article Link](#)

- Archaeological field school from SIUC discovers a previously unknown American fort. [Article Link](#)
- Conservatism took hold here 1,000 years ago. Until the people fled. [Article Link](#)

#### W.W. Meteorite News

- 'It pierced the clouds': Fireball spotted blazing over Europe. [Article Link](#)
- Meteorites for sale at US\$8,000 per gram after fireball near China-Myanmar border sparks treasure hunt. [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite fragments found in Yunnan after shower damages village homes. [Article Link](#)
- Meteors - what you need to know. [Article Link](#)
- The meteorite 'hunter' who greets and shelters China's visitors from the cosmos. [Article Link](#)

#### 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 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](#)

- **July 06, 2018** (Three Days)  
Black Hawk, Colorado  
2018 Rush to the Rockies Open Treasure Hunt  
Eureka! Treasure Hunters Club
- **July 14, 2018** (Eight Days)  
New Stanton, Pennsylvania  
2018 Treasure Week  
Many Sponsors
- **July 21, 2018** (One Day)  
Palmer, Alaska  
42nd Annual Metal Detecting Hunt  
Alaska Treasure Seekers Society

- **July 22, 2018** (Seven Days)  
Vallonia, Indiana  
10th year Southern Indiana Treasure Fest Treasure Fest Metal Detector Manufactures
- **July 27, 2018** (Three Days)  
Nekoosa, Wisconsin  
22nd Annual Open Hunt and State Championship  
MidState Metal Detector Club
- **July 28, 2018** (One day)  
Renton, Washington  
Annual \$ilver \$hoot  
Cascade Treasure Club

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

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

#### PLP - Public Lands for the People June [Press Release](#)

Public Lands for the People has a long history of fighting legal battles in court and providing educational help to the mining community as well as all public land users. Much of this important history did not get transferred to the new website 3 years ago when we brought [www.publiclandsforthepeople.org](http://www.publiclandsforthepeople.org) live on line. Also, within the last couple of years, PLP won a landmark Federal case we affectionately call "The Cheerios Decision", the importance of which is explained in the accomplishments list below.

Very early in the 1990's, PLP and some individual miners worked together in good faith with the state of California to craft the 1994 Suction Dredge Regulations and permit process. PLP made concessions to help facilitate the process. Jerry Hobbs explained later that we found out the hard way that because we compromised when working with government agencies, we could never get back what we compromised on, even though it was a right, not a privilege. Because we had submitted ourselves to regulatory agencies that didn't have authority to materially interfere, only to reasonably regulate. If you think the CA 1994 regs were good, what we had before that were much closer to the intent of the 1872 Mining Act. Without going into the many details; the fact that we gave up some ground in the process of the 1994 EIR and Suction Dredge Regulations, we realized we made a mistake, and we would never repeat it again.

Take a piece of paper in your hand. That paper represents your mining rights. Fold it in half because you compromised to get along and "play nice" so you could get through the process and "get back in the water". Several years later they come back and want more. You now have a half sheet of paper to start with. Fold it in half again because you compromised on something else, but this time you started with half a sheet and you have a quarter of a sheet. It's to the point where there isn't much left. You see the same process play out with "Gun Control" advocates. They take a little bit at a time. They are content with small takings, because they are cumulative. It's the same with our mining rights and we must not give up an inch of ground!

After experiencing this hard lesson with the 1994 Suction Dredge Regulations, PLP became the 'NO COMPROMISE' mining rights advocacy group, and that principle has guided us through many, many battles in the quarter century since. Many folks within the mining community don't understand why we take such a hard line, but we must not compromise our rights away if we are going to maintain our Federally granted rights. Because just like freedom, mining rights once lost, are nearly impossible to get back. We shouldn't have to compromise, because the law is on our side, whether or not the judges in judiciary system recognize those laws. That's why we often say, "Let's take it back and keep it!" We must remain ever vigilant and pro-active! [PLP June Complete Press Release](#)