

**FALL  
2008  
EDITION**



**THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.**  
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## THANKS TO DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

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### 1996 CONVENTION FIND

A little story of interest. This past Monday, June 23rd, at the Suncoast Research & Recovery club meeting one of the members revealed a very interesting find at a popular detecting site.

He was detecting the beach near the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, FL. This was the site of the FMDAC conventions in both 1996 and Hurricane Gordon hunt in 2000.

The photo is of his find made during June 2008 and as you can see the note indicates it was a planted prize for the convention and it must have been 1996 since 2000 was in the middle of driving rain during hurricane Gordon and we were barely able to throw coins in the 6" to 2' of flood water. This was dug from about 6" deep in the beach.



Obviously a hunt field can never really be considered as hunted out, can it?

From Wally Swartz, SE Chapter President

### MAN DROWNS WHILE DETECTING

A 39 Year old man from Wixom, MI was detecting in about four feet of water when he called for help several times before he disappeared from view in Saginaw Bay at the Caseville County Park.

The *Bay City Times* reported that about 100 people formed a human chain to search for him. The local Sheriffs department reported he was found about 20 minutes later, taken to a hospital and pronounced dead.

Caseville County Park is located in Huron County in Michigan's Thumb region about 110 miles north of Detroit.

No other details were available.

The moral is to always have backup with you whenever possible. This is a sad tale and we all need to be aware of our surroundings and always apply applicable safety when needed. Our hearts and prayers go out to this fellow's family.

### ANOTHER WILDLIFE TRAGEDY FROM THE NORTHWEST

Recently a tragedy occurred in the hills of the state of Washington. A 54 year old woman went out for a hike on a marked hiking trail on Sauk Mountain in Skagit County.

She was shot and killed by a 14 year old boy, who was hunting with his 16 year old brother. They had been dropped off at the mountain by their grandfather, to go hunting. The boy told police that he thought he was shooting at a bear. The boy has now been charged with manslaughter do to reckless shooting.

It's legal for a 14 year old to hunt without adult supervision, as long as he is licensed and has taken a hunter education class. Hunting is legal on most if the state's public lands, including hiking trails used by non-hunters.

This tragic accident has stirred up calls for more regulations and suggestions as to how to separate hunters from other users of the woods. Many are calling for separation of hunters and hiking trails. There is no perfect solution.

Metal detectorists should take notice of this incident and exercise caution. If you are detecting in the

woods and bend down to dig and retrieve a find you could easily be mistaken for an animal.

Be aware of hunting seasons and make you seen by wearing bright colors that stand out. Avoid black, brown or animal-colored clothing.

Thanks to the Cascade Treasure Club of Seattle



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### SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT TO BE FEATURED ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Our Southwestern Chapter President will be featured on a Kid's Discovery episode coming out in late November or early December.

Mike Smith was interviewed as the local historian in an episode on the famous "Lost Dutchman Mine" in Arizona. This episode was filmed in the old gold mining town of Goldfield, AZ, at the base of the Superstition Mountain.

Almost 250 people have lost their lives searching for this lost treasure in the past 120 years. The FMDAC 2007 Spring Convention was held at this town site.

We received a request for help from the Mid-Western Artifact Society, a FMDAC metal detecting club, on the City of Overland Park, Kansas banning metal detecting in their city parks.

This is a Park & Recreation directive, not a law passed by the City Council. We helped them formulate a petition to bring to the City Council. Signatures for this petition have been gathered from locals and from across the United States. This along with their awards from various cities, in the surrounding areas, for their help in archaeological and police recovery should convince the city to override the park directive.

They will bring this before the city council sometime in September or October. We will have to wait and see!

We are getting ready for our next Chapter hunt that will take place on February 15th, 2009. This will be the 4th annual Chapter hunt held in conjunction with the GPAA Gold Show in Phoenix, AZ. If you would like to participate contact Mike at [promack@quik.com](mailto:promack@quik.com) or call 480-983-7011.



John Duffy

President  
Sacramento  
Detecting Buffs

I was asked to put a few thoughts down for the latest issue of our club newsletter. I was first drawn to thoughts of one of our members who consistently bring in a large number of found coins to the meeting for "show and tell". When he talks about his finds he always notes that he hunts "for a couple of hours every day".

Then I thought about my trip in July that took me to Key West, Florida. I took the opportunity to tour the Mel Fisher Museum where some treasure from the wreck of the Spanish Galleon *Atocha* is on display.

For those of you not familiar with Mel's story, he spent 16 years of search and research looking for this fabulous treasure ship – without success – before finally on July 20, 1985, locating the heart of the \$450,000,000 treasure. Even after 23 years the hunt for remaining items of *Atocha's* treasure goes on today.



ARTISTS RENDERING OF THE SINKING OF THE ATOCHA

Finally, an avid golfer friend, who does not metal detect, sent me a news story about an amateur golfer who, after 18 previous attempts to qualify for an Amateur Tournament, had given up... until a friend convinced him "to give it one more try"... and of course he was successful on his 19<sup>th</sup> attempt. (Maybe there is something about the 19<sup>th</sup> hole being the most enjoyable?)

So what does all this have to do with our day to day metal detecting adventures? Simply put, "Don't Quit" or "Don't Give Up" or the finest metal detector in the world will not detect anything sitting in the closet.

I have found the more I detect the "better" I get, especially at learning the subtleties of my detector noting that a certain quality to the sound of a target nearly always means... trash or treasure.

Join a club and get out there and detect with friends. If you are in the Sacramento Valley area give our club a shout. [John.m.duffy@comcast.net](mailto:John.m.duffy@comcast.net)



South Jersey  
Metal Detecting  
Club Member  
of the month:

Henry  
Winzinger

By Dan Knight

Starting this month the Digger will highlight a member of the club, giving both existing and new members an idea of who is hunting alongside of them. Our inaugural interview will be with Henry Winzinger, a longtime beach and relic hunter and member of both the SJMDC and Mid Jersey clubs.

Club members can usually find Henry sitting in the back of the monthly meeting room, near the far end of the display tables, and typically with a 5 gallon bucket of finds. Born in 1935, Henry's been involved with aspects of our hobby for many years; including an extensive bottle hunting collection. He first picked up a detector about ten years ago, and living on a farm that dates back to colonial times, has ample acreage to hunt. Over the years he's gone thru many a detector and has a large collection of units still including an Excalibur, Garrett GTA500, Fisher 7aPro, a number of Explorer(s), and a

couple of Garrett 250's. It is the lightweight 250's that his new wife, Donna, employs on their hunts together, after the death of his first wife a number of years ago.

Henry has brought in many exciting finds over the years and is usually "ho-hum" about them. I personally remember the night he brought in a small vest sized button with "Long Live the President" embossed on it. While he knew it was an "oldie" it was only after a review of the Albert's book in our library that we found out it was a rare Washington Inaugural button worth thousands of dollars! This find, and many of his others over the years, have earned him a number of articles in the nationally distributed Western & Eastern Treasure's magazine. Henry says that his best jewelry find is a heavy 18K bracelet and his oldest coin is from 1676. A rough total of his finds to-date exceeds 100,00 coins, a total unfathomable to most of us, though when you spend 50 to 100 man-hours a month treasure hunting, it does add up! And if you want to hear a real treasure story, ask Henry to tell you about his "house of silver" finds sometime!

While Henry has many unique stories from his years of detecting, one that stands out is the time he returned a class ring to a very surprised mother. While he's tracked down and returned a number of rings this one ended up being very special as the boy that once owned the 1966 ring had drowned in the Delaware River in 1992. Thus the family appreciated getting this special memento back.

As a retiree living in the Jacksonville / Bordentown area, Henry still involves himself with the local farming community and thus will never run out of colonial farmland to hunt. He frequents the Long Beach Island and Atlantic City beaches during the summer when the fields are planted, and also is an avid black powder rifle shooter in his spare time. So if you don't already know Henry, stop by the back tables and "shoot" the time with him during our next club meeting. As one of SJMDC's most rounded and experienced members, you wouldn't go wrong learning a few tricks from Henry W.

## CENTRAL STATES TIDBITS

ILLINOIS: Illinois received its name from the Kaskaskia Indian word, Illini, meaning "real man." The first European to explore the area was Joliet, in 1633.

Soon afterward, French traders and missionaries came in search of gold, silver, furs, and converts. The earliest mission was founded by Father

Marquette at the Indian village of Kaskaskia in 1675. Between 1682 and 1750, the French built many forts, trading posts, and missions along the Wabash, Illinois, Kaskaskia, and Kankakee Rivers.

The French and English brought only place names and few people to Illinois. But after it was ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, Americans began the permanent settling of the territory.

Most of the pioneers came by way of the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Ohio Rivers and built their villages in southern Illinois along those waterways. Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818.

For the treasure and relic hunter, the state offers hundreds of locations, any one of which can prove interesting and profitable.

Thanks to the Midwest Historical Research Society, Chicago, IL. Celebrating 40 years

The next story dedicated to the first responders, police, firefighters, medical people and the guys who get your power back on. These dedicated people work long, nasty hours in all kinds of conditions to get the job done.



## SECOND ANNUAL SCALES LAKE HUNT FINISHED BY HURRICANE IKE REMNENTS

The first day, Saturday, went off without any hitches. Lots of coins and tokens in the sand were scooped up by the hunters. The temperature reached about 94 but there was a nice breeze every once in awhile.

The evening progressed as the diverse group of individuals and families went on their way. Some grilled out, some went to town for dinner and some hunted the hunt site. No matter who you saw or what they were doing the main topic was Sunday's weather.

The remains of the storm that devastated the Gulf Region are finally on its way to Boonville, Indiana. Most of the forecasts said early afternoon we could see some wind gusts and possible showers.

It was windy all morning and the blowing sand should have been a clue but you all know how TH'ers are? The hunt must go on. As we were planting the last hunt the sand blew so bad Dave Brown said he was going to get his diving goggles for the hunt. (He did but didn't use them) Huntmaster Ed Davis and his wife

Donna along with a lot of other "hands" kept or tried to keep things from blowing away.

During and right after the last hunt you could hear trees cracking in the background. One person pointed out some siding coming off of the building we were using (bath house for the lake). About this time everyone said some pretty quick goodbyes and went on their hurried ways.

Barb Connelly came back from the camping area and I asked her if my camper was still up there in one piece. We were next to each other. She said all was OK but there were trees down all over and power lines and oh yes she did chase all my left over hunt field flags I had left in a bucket under the camper. (Thanks again Barb)



ONE OF SEVERAL DOWNED TREES

It was my grandkids first camping trip so it will be one for them to remember. Ed Davis said he heard thunder and it turned out to be the two boys running through the trailer and jumping from the elevated bedroom into the living area. We "nipped that in the bud" as Barney would have said.



THIS GUY WAS HOGGING THE ROAD

In our adventure no one was injured with all the debris blowing around. Everyone helped everyone and a lot of campers were ready to roll in little time. As far as I know everyone made it home OK. We had to go out of our way through Evansville due to a downed power line on State Road 61. That was only a minor delay for us.

It was nice to see a lot of the hunters I haven't seen in awhile. The Maxwell's, Dan Ritchey and those red shirts that mean there are Nuggettiers around.

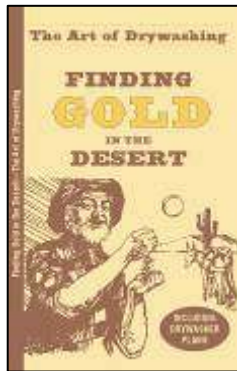
Please pray for all the victims of the recent storms. There are a lot of folks that will have to start all over. Some missing loved ones. Pray for the first responders who were there to help those in need. And a special prayer to those guys who put their lives on the "line" getting those power lines back up.

Dave

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### TREASURE WEEK COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES NEW SITE

After a vote at Whispering Hills Campground this July by the hunters and their families Treasure Week 2009 will be held Fox Den Acres Campground in New Staunton, PA July 11th thru the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Treasure Week committee met several times and researched sites to move the long standing event due to the price rises facing the hunters at Whispering Hills. Fox Den Acres has given the group special rates and most of the hunters will be grouped in the same area of the campground.

The FMDAC will again be sponsoring a day. For more info, they can contact Jill & Carl McFeeders. Flyers will be going out soon.

### GONE HUNT'N

Midwest Coinshooters and Historical Club

Rolla George (Buzz) Bowman 04/09/1917 – 09/09/2008

Gerald Mullen

William (Bill) Tobin

Silver Seekers (And other clubs)

Dave Boyd

Nelson West

Lucille Bowen – She was one of "the Gals" in the old Western Eastern Magazine's *Travel with the Gals*. She and Betty Weeks were always looking for treasure and supporting their club(s) and the hobby. She will be missed.

### BOARD RESTRUCTURES CHAPTERS

The FMDAC Board of directors met at Treasure Week during FMDAC Day. With 4 members absent, but yet consulted, the Board decided to restructure the chapters in the absence of a South Central slate of officers.

Mike Smith, Western Chapter President, will absorb the most states in the change and he has accepted the challenge of communicating with his new clubs and Independents.

National President Duane Biller said "it's a monster job, but Mike can handle it".

Page two of this newsletter has the chapter assignments and the President in charge of the clubs and Independents in that chapter. You will note that there are only six chapters now. The Board can review this action and reverse it in the future when and if necessary.

## NEW PAGE FROM WEBMASTER

I have added a new page to the FMDAC Site. It is a Google Map that shows all FMDAC Member Clubs. This map will allow you to zoom in on a specific area by double clicking in that area. You can also click on each club push pin to get specific information on that club.

I built this webpage based on the information that I have. If for some reason there is a club missing or the information is not correct please let me know. If a club has an email address or webpage they would like listed please email that information to me.

don@mymdforum.com

Here is the link to the new page:  
<http://www.fmdac.org/mapTest/default.html>

Regards,

Don

<http://mymdforum.com/forum/index.php>

## BRIEF NOTE

If you are receiving this in error please contact me at the address on page 2 or email me. If you know someone who should get a copy and is not please let me know. If you are an Independent and part of a club you should get an Individual copy and there will be no club contact. If this is confusing call or email me. Dave



## **SURFDIGGER'S** **BEACH** **REPORT**

This is probably my favorite time of the year to be a beach / surf hunter, Why is that? The reasons for this practically fly off the page!! First of all The crowds are all gone, the weather isn't just good.....It's usually spectacular, The days that aren't beautiful are usually beautiful weather of another kind and that is often the outer effects of a passing tropical system of some type or other.

You know what that brings with it....yes....beach erosion and movement of coins and jewelry to within reach of our searchcoils. This time of year most of the summer's accumulation of treasure is still in the piles of what I call, "summer sand", that has accreted up on the beach all season since late spring. In September the predominant wind direction makes a

switch to a more northerly direction as opposed to the dominant southerly flow that we experience all summer long. This tends to pull sand off of the beach and into the ocean where it will remain for most of the winter season. The heavier coins and jewelry in this light summer sand will now start an amazing journey down and along the beach.

Mother Nature has a way of agitating and then separating these targets into lines and (for lack of a better term) "coin patches". This is a combination of sand movement and the effects of gravity on things of like density as they scramble to find a home in the sand. This is where the opportunities lie for the astute detectorist that prowls the beaches at low tide. When you get to the beach, things you want to look for are areas that are now sloping away from the high tide line down to the water where that beach was flatter during the summer.

This change usually indicates that the surf at high tide is gradually cutting into the bank of what was originally the "blanket line" during the summer. This is where most of the tourists lay out and place their blankets and chairs during the season. You will dig a lot of coins in these conditions because that is mostly what is lost in the blanket line. Don't discount that occasional piece of gold jewelry as I have seen some beautiful pieces come out of this dry sand section all season. One of the great things about targets washed out of the dry sand into the wet sand slope is that you will spend more time digging good targets and less time digging light trash targets, foil, bottle caps & pull-tabs because the surf will have washed most of that light weight debris away.

Another plus is the area down below the low tide mark. This area will receive day and night, tide in and tide out movement of sand. This will move targets in and out and into depressions, troughs, and scallops at low tide. Keep an eye on your tide charts for minus tides during this month as they will present you with some really neat opportunities to look for and hunt all of the conditions that I have outlined in this report.

I was out in Atlantic City NJ on September 2. That afternoon and I noticed that the beaches are starting to slope out rather nicely. I was hunting one of those sloped beaches just below the high tide mark. I had been digging coins pretty regularly in what was forming a pronounced coin line. It was pretty evident that the tide and the northeast/east winds of the past week had been pulling targets down out of the blanket line. Well after digging about my 8th quarter from that spot, my sovereign GT gave me a real nice low, round signal that I just love to hear. This is that type of signal that just lets you know that it isn't a raggedy piece of brass sheet scrap or a mutilated WWII practice bullet that we dig too many of in AC. This was the type of signal that just screamed GOLD!! Well, one scoop later I was staring at a beautiful 10k gold cocktail ring with 21 little round cut sparkling diamonds staring up at me from my scoop. That's all it takes sometimes to make all that

diligent beach reading and tedious digging worth the effort, yes, today I really felt vindicated.

Just one last footnote to this report.....It is September 24th today and the beaches along the east coast are getting pounded by a strong Northeast wind. The marine weather report says that a nice coastal low pumped up by a tropical system out of the Caribbean should move up the coast in the next couple of days!! This should strip a lot of our "summer sand" off of the beaches and clear the way for subsequent coastal storms to start cutting into the harder base layers holding those heavy gold rings, link chains and bracelets. I'm gonna be ready to hit the beach.....How about you?? Get out there and get your share

Brian Mayer, [surfdigger07@aol.com](mailto:surfdigger07@aol.com)



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## **ACCOMODATIONS**

The convention will be at the Attache Hotel in Wildwood Crest, NJ. The rooms will be \$75 per night plus tax. To make reservations you can call 1-609-522-0241. Book early as there are a limited amount of rooms. Overflow will be directed to the Gondolier Hotel across the street. Be sure to tell them you are with the FMDAC.

## **CAMPING**

List of Campgrounds can be acquired through the Chamber of Commerce at 609-522-5176.

## **ATTRACTIONS**

Wildwood Crest is located between Atlantic City and Historic Cape May. At Wildwood there is an amusement park, boardwalk and many stores to choose from. Wildwood is a family orientated resort area.

## **WORKSHOPS AND EXHIBITS**

We will have displays by manufacturers and dealers, clubs and individuals on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also workshops will be held on the beach. Also there will be fun and games on the beach for everyone.

## **BANQUET**

The banquet will be on Saturday evening at a local restaurant at 6:30 PM  
After the dinner we will have a guest speaker.

## **HUNTS**

All hunts will be at held on the beach, next to the fishing pier. Friday evening there will be a free beach hunt to all registered hunters.

A Surprise hunt will be held on Saturday morning at 11:00 am. Registration will begin at 9:00 am. The two main hunts will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, with registration starting at 8:30am. They will be held rain or shine. You must be an FMDAC member to enter the hunts. We will have silver coins in the paid hunt fields. There will be a free kid's hunt between the two main hunts on Sunday.

## **TRAVEL**

You can fly into Atlantic City Airport. The hotel is approximately 1 hour from the airport..

**If you need any more info or have any questions please contact Duane Biller at 724-439-1380, Vic Kamer at 724-295-3046 or Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608, [jcseeker@core.com](mailto:jcseeker@core.com)**

**All times and schedule subject to change.**

**\*The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.\***

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## THE FMDAC'S CODE OF ETHICS

I WILL ALWAYS CHECK FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL LAWS BEFORE SEARCHING. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO "KNOW THE LAW".

I WILL RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WILL NOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE OWNER'S PERMISSION. WHERE POSSIBLE, SUCH PERMISSION WILL BE IN WRITING.

I WILL TAKE CARE TO REFILL ALL HOLES AND TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY DAMAGE.

I WILL REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY AND ALL TRASH AND LITTER THAT I FIND.

I WILL APPRECIATE AND PROTECT OUR INHERITANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I WILL, AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE HOBBY, USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.

I WILL WORK TO HELP BRING UNITY TO OUR HOBBY BY WORKING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT MAY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PEACEFULLY PURSUE THE HOBBY.

I WILL LEAVE GATES AS FOUND.

I WILL BUILD FIRES IN DESIGNATED OR SAFE PLACES ONLY.

I WILL REPORT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ENTER AND OR REMOVES ARTIFACTS FROM FEDERAL PARKS OR STATE PRESERVES.

## eQUEST EXTRAS

### TREASURE FESTIVAL IN THE PLANNING

There has been talking the last few months about a new event planned for Midwest treasure hunters. Southern Indiana will be the target area for the new event to give regional hunters an event similar to *Treasure Week* only not as many days.

"When *Treasure Week* was moved further east a lot of Midwest hunters just can't travel that far," a hunter was overheard saying. The planners of this new event hope to bring those hunters back to the area where *TW* was popular many years ago.

Starve Hollow campground has been the spot mentioned by one source. More information should be available soon. Mona and Kenny Wray said they would send out information and flyers to their extensive mailing list when all is complete.

### TEXAS METAL DETECTORISTS NEED OUR HELP

OK folks, every one of us in Texas have a golden opportunity to hit the Texas Parks and Wildlife where it hurts, in the pocket book. For many years now I and others have worked to get our hobby of metal detecting into Texas State Parks only to have politics and the Texas State Parks tell us each year they will never allow access to our hobby

I remind you that there is 38 states in America now that allow metal detecting in "designate public use areas" of their state parks that are "already disturbed" and they do not have any problems with metal detecting. However, Texas is not one of them and both the legislature and Parks officials have played by unfair rules to keep us out!

Please take this opportunity to speak your peace either by writing or email to the Sunset Committee before the November ruling. It seems that all other activities are allowed on Texas State Parks except ours. I would like to remind everyone that the Army Corps of Engineers allowed our activity when they realized in 1989 that it would be discriminating not to. Our metal detecting policy with the Corps is nationwide--coast to coast and they benefit by our activity in cleaning their park areas according to their chiefs in Washington DC.

Please take the time to write, do something, don't just sit on your hands. I hope the Texas Council of Treasure Clubs will pick this ball up and run with it. Every detectorist in the state needs to be notified now.

**Read the attachment for better understanding and send your comments in to the address or email of the Sunset Advisory Commission now.**

For those out-of-state; if you wish to help your brothers and sisters of the hobby here in Texas, please write as well and stress the importance of vacationing in Texas Parks only if you can enjoy your activity of metal detecting while your visiting.

We need everyone's help and we need it now!

Thank you, Keith Wills

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/about/sunset/>

### ADD AND DELETE?

OK Everyone, I have deleted 102 bad / undeliverable emails. I have added over 170 in the last few days and probably still do not have everyone.

I would like for you to forward this to all your contacts. That way if I don't have someone's email they may get it anyhow through someone else. If you get more than one just delete the extras. If you get more than one from me please send me an email with the list number so I can delete one of them.

If you get this electronically and do not need a mailed copy please email me the email name and regular name and address and I will take it off of White's mailing list.

Enjoy your newsletter.

Dave