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**FMDAC 25TH
ANNIVERSARY
1984 - 2009**

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Could this be one of the last wakes she makes?

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President Biller with detector winners Nick (Reis) Swartz and Sarah Steffanick at the 2008 Convention

State of the FMDAC

With the holidays fast approaching, I look back on 2008 and the roller coaster ride the FMDAC had. The ups and downs of the organization over the last year were troubling, but many positive things made the year end as it began, with promise for the future.

In late winter of 2007 our membership applications continued to roll in and everything was looking up, then because of lack of participation, we had to cancel our spring event in Antlers, Oklahoma. Whether it was the economy, the rising price of silver or other factors, we will never know but this was the first real blow for the Federation since I took over as President.

Putting that behind us we continued to move forward and membership continued to grow. Our independent membership grew to record numbers and everything looked back on track. The summer showed great promise as we sponsored a day at Treasure Week in Ohio and it was a great success.

We also, about the same time were invited to join forces with a large treasure expo in Myrtle Beach for the upcoming event in April of 2009. We accepted and again we were moving forward getting the name of the FMDAC out to the public.

Then in October we hit another snag when another club moved their dates to conflict with our Wildwood Convention. This probably wouldn't have mattered if the club was hundreds of miles away but the club who was a non FMDAC club was less than 100

miles up the road. This really hurt our event but everyone that came had a great time and even though the numbers were not what we expected everything went well.

After that slight setback we ended the year on a positive note. The FMDAC and its membership helped defeat or turn around treasure hunting laws in several communities. This positive effort by everyone involved shows that when called upon the FMDAC is out there to protect your rights as treasure hunters.

In closing, I wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season and hope that 2009 brings great treasures to you and yours.

Duane Biller, National President

FROM THE EDITOR

What a year it has been for me personally. I retired in July and it seems Carol and I have been doing something every since then. Treasure Week was an experience that proved a lot of things.

We survived the "first year RV'ers" syndrome and learned a lot from the ones around us. Eddy Davis was a wealth of information as were several others throughout the week and in subsequent outings. There were things I needed and didn't have and had total strangers offer help and food. Some things Carol and I had never tasted and some were pretty good. Carol still has an issue with camp fires as they bother her asthma.

Our most memorable trip was the hurricane Ike weekend. There were some folks at the convention that mentioned the story was about a non-member club and shouldn't be in the *Quest*. The club in question was the old Lincoln Heritage Treasure Hunters out of Evansville, Indiana. Lincoln was one of the first clubs to join the FMDAC back in 1984 and that is where I became an FMDAC supporter.

As the years age us annually a lot of the original members of Lincoln faded away there and were a scant few to keep things going. I experienced that with my own club with only 6 or 7 older members. Robbie simply used their moniker so to speak because that was the first treasure club he had belonged to.

Bottom line is that 99.9% of the people involved in the two day hunt at Scales Lake are FMDAC members through a club or Independent membership I don't feel like the article was inappropriate. If anyone does then I will give you the forum in this newsletter to oppose.

I was actually offended by the comment. I try to support the hobby of metal detecting and amateur

archeological groups and our many Independents. I will through this format and the FMDAC Website calendar promote not only our FMDAC events but also any legitimate event submitted to me.

I feel we are a national organization that is to promote our hobby and would hope at the ridiculous dues amount of \$5 all treasure hunters would join and help us. Our legislative liaison, Mark Schuessler, works his behind off researching and reporting on all the issues around the nation. We have improved the *Quest* and delivery of information via special editions through our email database.

Yet we still get that old spin, "What are you doing with my \$5 dues"? I submit that if you really support the FMDAC and their cause's then add an additional \$5 or more with your dues. Our costs have gone up just like everyone else's but the Board decided not to raise your dues at this time. Any donation is tax deductible.

It costs a great deal to put on a convention so we tried something a little different. Not being professionals but just volunteer officers some mistakes were made and some events scheduled didn't happen. I don't really think it was that big of a deal as most that attended had a good time with the extra hunts instead of seminars.

Our apologies to those folks that had to drive a long way to attend seminars that weren't there for them. As for the banquet, the locals would not tie up a restaurant room for 3 to 4 hours with over 30,000 soccer kids / families coming to town. The spots were limited because most big places had already closed down for the season.

Next years convention will be in the Kansas City area and we will be returning to the original format of seminars, displays and so on. I hope you plan on attending. Our goal is to have over 300 hunters and additional attendees.

In addition to all of the state representatives that are needed to assist us in spreading our message. Chapter Presidents and National Officers can not attend every club meeting or event out there. This is also Chapter election year so jump in and get your feet wet. Make this truly your organization.

Dave

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From the Southeast

A Special request from a Legend

I have taken a job as volunteer for the ship American Victory. Details are below in a letter I wrote to John Chatterton, star of the television series Deep Sea Detectives. John and his partner, Richie Kohler, recently interviewed Robert Kurson author of the novel *Shadow Divers* soon to be a motion picture. It is well written and is a true accounting of two Americans who risk everything to solve one of the last mysteries of World War II.

The ship is in trouble and I am asking for help. If there is any kind of fundraising your metal detecting clubs can do for a worthy cause this is it. This ship served our Country in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam.

Now it is our turn to help her. Everything is in short supply. Our ship needs help. Let me know of any thoughts you have. Are there any of your members in Florida willing to donate some time. I will owe you and your members a big favor. Just ask.

Fizz (Captain Carl Fizzer)

John,

I know you are busy, but please read this. I have been asked to consult for American Victory. A 455 foot 62 foot beam Merchant Marine cargo transport vessel serving in WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam.

I spent all day on her yesterday. Please take a look at the Website www.americanvictory.org



American Victory

This ship gets by as a museum mostly, but runs good. They take her out twice a year. She is staffed mostly by older people who are nice enough to volunteer. Many of these ships were sunk during the war, and as you know many Merchant Marine men were killed.

She is as American History as you can get. You're starting to get a funny feeling.

One of her big problems is Wheelchair access. Do you know anybody or groups that could help with some fundraising? They are hurting for money and the bottom line they are hardly making ends meet. The future is gloomy.



At home in Tampa Bay

I don't have any money, but I do know people that could help. If you have any ideas I would owe you any favor. Perhaps next time you were in the area you would go aboard, and maybe have some pictures taken. I believe that would help even in the P.R. department via local newspapers and TV. Any P.R. would good.

She also transported home at the end of the war wounded, living, and dead servicemen. I'm a sucker for history, and it would be a shame if she went down. I wouldn't ask you for anything for myself, but this vessel is special. Thanks for anything you could think of.

Fizz

Editor's note: Like Captain Carl said, "we're all suckers for history". Anyone in the Florida area or anywhere else that would like to donate time and or reserves for this cause please contact Captain Carl.

captainfizz@yahoo.com

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SURFDIGGER'S BEACH REPORT

It seems as though wherever people live along the coastal areas of this great country of ours they have been impacted in one way or the other by the reality of beach erosion of our shorelines. Now you can argue whether or not "global warming" is the culprit or if overdevelopment of our shorelines is to blame. Maybe we are just in a trend of active coastal storms. The fact still remains that the sand on our beaches is being swept away and replenished every year. It is up to you as an astute detectorist to take full advantage of some of these coastal phenomenons when planning your next detecting trip to your favorite ocean beach.

Beach erosion in a strange way is responsible for a lot of the success that we experience especially after the swimming season. As the sand is stripped off of the beach by a coastal storm, the heavier lost valuables that we seek will move around usually to the lowest and sturdiest levels of the beach. Now I know for those among us that have been beach and surf hunting for a while, we have seen some great erosion that has opened up that "beach vault" of lost treasure in the form of gold and silver jewelry as well as coins and artifacts from earlier times. Well here are a few of the things that you might want to look for to kick start your success after that next storm.

I always look for a beach that hasn't seen any type of manmade beach replenishment in at least 10 years. It just makes sense these "older" beaches contain more accumulation of wealth than say a beach that has been replenished in the last 2 years. A lot of those heavy and desirable items can and will be found in much greater numbers than say a beach that has just recently been filled in by clean offshore sand. I am going to discuss beach and wet sand hunting as opposed to water hunting in the surf.

The conditions that we look for out of the water can be different than looking for holes in the active surf. After a coastal storm has passed I usually like to check the beach that I am going to hunt by first finding a highpoint that overlooks the beach such as a fishing pier, high dune, or even a bulkhead at the top of a street that ends at the beach. For this kind of observation I recommend a good pair of binoculars. Look at fixed landmarks such as jetties, pilings, bulkheads etc. at low tide that might indicate a current sand level. It is very

important that you notice and at least mentally record these objects during non-storm conditions and especially during the swimming season months. This will help you gauge the level of the sand after a storm has passed. The idea is to find an area of beach that is actually "holding" targets such as Quarters, Nickels, and heavier silver and gold jewelry. You can usually spot these areas looking for broken shells and pebbles and or gravel laying on the surface in areas that look lower than the surrounding beach. The type of shell and or pebbles lying in an area that you might want to hunt should be about the same weight and size of the type of targets that you are seeking as items of like size and density usually "travel" together.

Once you have located the area that looks promising I recommend that you work a search pattern in a wide "W" pattern from the waterline up to the dune line. Once you hit a desirable target especially a heavy one (ie. nickel, quarter, fishing sinker) you want to tighten up that "W" and slow down a bit and dig everything that reads higher than iron.

Will an area that looks good always produce? Not always, But there are some tricks to remember when looking for that hotspot. Here is just one.....when deciding on a beach to hunt in the off season, go to that beach that gets moderate bathing traffic during the season and lesser detector traffic during the same time. I have an area near me that is mainly a weekend beach and only sees local bathers on the weekdays. As a result, detector pressure is almost non-existent during the summer. With a good mile and a half of open beaches, I find that bathers are fairly spread out with no fixed concessions or public bathrooms to attract people to one particular beach. Instead, there are strolling ice cream vendors that make change in quarters. How many of those coins do you think find there way into the sand? I find that target distribution is scattered and if you were to hunt the dry sand especially, you wouldn't find a big concentration of coins in any one spot.

This changes however after a good storm that moves that sand around. The targets that are scattered up and down the beach start to move into lines and low areas together. With some of the tips and signs to look for that I have mentioned in this beach report, you should be able to be successful at a location similar to this in your area too. The key is preparation and research.....So what are you doing sitting at the computer reading this.....find a beach....and dig yourself some gold already!!

Brian Mayer, surfdigger07@aol.com



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Northwest Chapter Changes

From Lyle Thomas, NW Chapter president

I would like to apologize for not doing a better job
this year, but my health has been a priority over almost
everything else and that has taken up most of my time.

In regards to this, I have submitted a letter of
resignation effective January 1, 2009. My Vice
President, Robert Carstesen has agreed to step up and
replace me for the final year of my term.

Now for better news, our chapter has increased
in size by two states, Nebraska and Wyoming giving us
a total of nine states.

With the number of people who complain about
the F.M.D.A.C., I think it's terrible that more people don't
take the opportunity to run for office and make changes.
Everyone complains, but no one will step up to the plate
and run for office. The same thing is true for the Chapter
President election to be held in the fall of 2009. Five or
six positions will most likely go unopposed. Why is that?

We held a Chapter Meeting in Ellensburg WA on
Oct 11. There were 5 members present including
myself. As you can see, the Northwest Chapter also has
a large number of members who are not supportive
either.

Bob Carstesen is working on a Chapter Hunt. I
am sure that he will keep everyone posted on its
progress. As for other events in the chapter, the
N.W.T.H.C. and S.W.A.T.H. are planning hunts again
next year.

The Oregon State Parks Commission has
decided to review the rules for metal detecting in the
state. Parks division Southwest Regional Manager Andy

LaTomme said the commission will be revising rules for
metal detector use at parks. The changes include

provisions to: clarify use of metal detectors on park
property; remove the need for permits in areas found to
be free of cultural sites; and increase the value limit for
found property from \$20 to \$100. The value limit requires
people to turn in items worth more than \$100 found on
State Park property. They will also be looking into new
rules for ATV use by folks with disabilities.

I believe that will do it for now. Thanks to all
who have supported me and the FMDAC throughout my
term. Until then, God Bless

Lyle Thomas
F.M.D.A.C.
Northwest Chapter President

FMDAC Southwestern Chapter Victory

I am pleased to announce that through the
efforts of our members across the nation and the Mid-
Western Artifact Society that we have gained a small
victory.

The City of Overland Park, Kansas has voted to
allow metal detecting in their city parks with a permit.
This permit will be free and is good for 5 years.

The vote by the city commission was unanimous
and the new permit system will go into affect on January
1st, 2009. It took signed petitions, media exposure and
two meetings with the Overland Park City Advisory
Committee to accomplish this task.

I would like to thank the members of the Mid-
Western Artifact Society for their efforts in making this
happen. It takes local members dedication to make this
type of thing happen. Hopefully in 2009 we will be able
to make many more announcements like this victory!

Mike Smith
Southwestern Chapter President

From the Northeast

It's Not a Fairy Tale!

By Tom Cifardi

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago in a
land devoid of authoritarian restrictions, Americans were
free to enjoy the pursuit of leisure time activities that
relieved the tensions of everyday life without unfair
judgment or illogical restrictions. Then from out of the
darkness of uneducated prejudice and the depths of
legal quagmire came an ill wind that tried to take metal
detecting away from the people.

Just a minute! This is no fairy tale, this is a fact!

Metal detecting as a pursuit of personal enjoyment and historical self education has since the 1980's slowly and continuously been under siege from local park bureaucrats and federal parks authorities in a drop by drop attempt to restrict or end the hobby as we know it.

Legislation on a federal level continues to threaten our access to millions of acres of public land in cities and counties and around the country. Local parks are banning us in too many places. Every now and then a new set of laws or restrictions are presented for passage or are passed that cumulatively will bury the hobby in so much opposition that eventually your metal detector may become no more useful than a paper weight.

In 1992 metal detecting was banned from city parks in New York City after decades of access. Summonses were issued without warning. Detectorists in the NYC metropolitan area were upset and a few of us joined together to fight what was a clear injustice. A team of seven assembled which consisting of members from Brooklyn, NY (Formerly the Brooklyn Treasure Hunters) and others from towns in NJ (East Coast Research & Discovery Association).

We mounted a two front approach to regaining access to the parks and to reverse the opinions that created the ban through education. Using research and negotiation we forced a public hearing and changed the minds of the very architects of the ban while enjoying the full support of the FMDAC standing ready to do all they could to help.

At that time Prospect Park was not going to be placed on the permit. A couple of us attended a meeting with the parks administrator and were able once again to negotiate our way into the park.

For many years the system designed by the NY/NJ Task Force and NYC Parks and Recreation worked fine. Recently however a large donation of money was given to the private organization that runs Prospect Park and they told us we were no longer welcomed in that park.

The rest of the system is still working fine under the permit system. Private groups administering parks may be our largest danger in the future. They are a trend as public funds are increasingly unavailable to maintain large parks.

Over the years the Task Force lost members to

retirement and death. With only two original full time members and one new member remaining, a meeting was recently arranged between one original Task Force member and the new member with the park administrator. After an hour of conversation we thought a fair compromise was reached. We flushed out the details and submitted a schedule suggestion as requested to regain access. It was turned down by maintenance management with a counter proposal which would severely limit access and make it totally uncertain as to whether permission would actually be granted at all.

While planning how we will respond and handle this situation we have rebuilt the NY/NJ Task Force with old members who have returned to help once again and new members. We have been asked to expand into upstate NY and are doing so by adding a member from that region who will eventually be responsible for creating a new branch of the Task Force in that area to defend the hobby there. We have also approached the FMDAC with the idea that Task Force groups be started around the country, under the FMDAC umbrella to help local detectorists help themselves to defend the hobby in their home locations, while facilitating a central place where these Task Forces can communicate and share experience and advice. We all agree that no one can fight the fight better than the people who live where the issues are developing. We can only strengthen our position and empower our hobby by joining together and helping each other.

From Wally Swartz

Southeast Chapter President

Christmas is almost up on us again and for the Christians it is the celebration of the birth of Christ and our Jewish friends have Hanukah! And of course there are numerous other faiths, many of which I have never heard of that also celebrate their religions at this time. And even though some have a period of fasting ultimately the holiday does include feasting.....Oh boy, here we go again!

The one common factor in all this is the gathering of family and friends in solemn worship, feasting and giving of gifts. As Christians, my family and I along with Pastor Donnie and our extended family at Sea Breeze Community Church, will celebrate the birth of Christ. I do hope that each and every one of you does take the time to reflect on the true meaning of this holiday season! To our non Christian friends we hope that you have meaningful time during this season.

Next up is the one that leads to the most trouble, New Years time. Way too many of us use this occasion

to partake of too much high octane libation and end up seriously inebriated and some incarcerated. Worse yet is the number of auto accidents that occur with dire consequences. Keep in mind the use of a "designated driver" if you plan to party! I would be glad to volunteer except that I can't stay awake that long anymore!!!

I don't understand the phenomenon of New Years, after all it's just another day, a flip of the calendar page but.....it is also a day of hope for better things to come. Hence the New Year's resolution, we all make them but very few keep them! But what the heck there's always next New Year to try again.....right?

Central States

Looks like a simple treasure hunting weekend turned into a major treasure festival for southern Indiana. In an interview with Kenny Wray I learned that he had been besieged with requests for some kind of hunt in the Midwest. Kenny told the promoters that his old campground infrastructure would not support the kind of event they wanted to have.

One thing lead to another and the big 8 day event at Starve Hollow Campground has evolved. Kenny said when the promoters started researching dates they learned that there was a very narrow window for the event with school staying in session into June and kids going back to school in mid August. "There were just going to be a few dates and we had to work with the campground. We didn't want to interfere with Treasure Week and felt this was the best."

He also said a lot of interest has been generated since Treasure Week has moved further east. Some folks just won't go the extra miles and time to travel into Pennsylvania. They liked being able to make the trip in one day even if it was a long one. "I think Treasure Week will lose some Midwesterners but at the same time they will pick up hunters from the east coast. I have talked to a lot that will attend both." Kenny said.

Central States President Ron David will be hosting a Central States hunt on Wednesday. Ron said, "The hunters have been hollering for a Central States hunt, so we're going to give them a good one." Other sponsors will be hosting days and a major Corporate sponsor will have the event named with it's product in the name.

A few will have to choose, a few will be able to attend both. Let's hope the economy will stabilize and everyone can attend all the hunts this year, like it used to be.

Legislative Wrap Up

Mark Schuessler

First off we have a last minute win. The situation with the parks in Overland Park, KS has just been

settled to the satisfaction of the detecting community. For those not familiar with it here it is in brief. The parks were placed off limits to metal detecting. The Midwest Artifact Society with the backing of the FMDAC went to work. Between petitions, meeting with the city council, and a little media, a free permit system is being initiated. This shows what taking action can do.

Some parks in the NY City area have hit the NO detecting wall. The NY/NJ task force which was formed to fight closures many years ago is back in action. The FMDAC has been in communication with them and we are ready to help out when and if they need it. Until further notice please stay out of Owls Head and Prospect parks. It will only make the situation worse if anyone is caught there and you would make yourself eligible for a \$500 fine.

The state of Texas was asking for people to send comments during a review process. A committee was reviewing the operation, services and public uses etc. of the state park system. I hope you sent in your comments asking for metal detecting to be allowed. This info was placed on the website and you should have received it via email also.

The Washington state bill concerning metal detecting in the state parks went no where again. It did not make it out of committee.

Back again was the Kentucky permit bill. Fortunately it was dead on arrival. I have been told that it has virtually zero support in the general legislature. The only ones for it are the few in the committee who are pushing it.

The Florida shipwreck salvage community is under attack. There is a pending change in the rules dealing with the archaeological side of the salvage operations. These changes would virtually put an end to the salvage industry by creating unworkable permitting rules. This is the short explanation. At the time of this writing I do not have any updates on the status.

On the federal level are two bills that are very dangerous. The "Clean Water Act" would give the Corp of Engineers and the EPA jurisdiction over "all waters of the United States" and activities that effect them. This could detrimentally affect the metal detecting, prospecting and diving hobbies as well as many other hobbies, pastimes and regular daily activities. The implications here are vast. This is another attempt to control private property.

The second federal level bill is an omnibus land grab. It does not have a number and keeps growing in size. There are over 150 separate bills thrown into this one. They all deal with various land designation, creating national parks, historic sites, trails, studies etc. One bill alone, the National Landscape Conservation System, would take 26 million acres of land of various

designations and place it under national park regulations. This giant conglomeration would put a vast amount of land in federal hands and change the designations on much more, severely limiting the present public use. The administration of all this additional land will increase the government size and cost untold millions. Give ya one guess that will pay for it. Kind of ironic that we will be paying to prevent us the freedom of use of it! It could come up for a vote at any time. The only reason it has not already is due to the financial bailouts that have taken up the government's time.

All of these items mentioned here are available for review in some form on the website. Check the alert section on the front page, and the legislative section of the forum. Updates will be posted on the forum. As always do not hesitate to contact us if something comes up in your locality or state. Do not assume that we know. In the last week I have been forwarded two instances of abuses to the hobby. I will be checking them out and reporting on them when I have something concrete to report.

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prices check w/Jill*

*Contact Jill McFeeders
7025 Dover Zoar Rd.
Dover, OH 44622
330 364-1608
jcseeker@core.com*

FMDAC LIBRARY AVAILABLE

CONTACT DAVE CARTER
dcarter5@aol.com

Dave will be out of commission for awhile

GONE HUNT'N

Weller's Cove, Lake Worth, FL

Robert Milton "Frogfoot" Weller
1925 - 2008

Yankee Territory Coinshooters:

Ruth Polzun (Bailey) MacRobbie
1932 - 2008

Eleanor R. Campbell
1910 - 2008

Susquehanna Valley Metal Detector Club

Ken Lewis
1940 - 2008

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.

FMDAC QUEST
DAVE PERRY
603 W. STATE ST.
PRINCETON, IN 47670