



The FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC. Est.
1984

WESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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April, May,

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Hello from the President's Desk,

Springtime/Summer is upon us. For us here in the Western Chapter it means different things. We have clubs, here in the Arizona desert that will not be doing much for the next several months with the heat upon us, unless it is early in the morning when the sun first rises. Our clubs in northern California and Nevada and our Independent members in Colorado and Wyoming are getting ready to just start their season of metal detecting with the snow melting off the mountain sides. Our clubs in southern California have the best of both worlds where it does not get too hot or too cold. So where every you may be, just get out there and find your treasure.

The first part of May I attended the 2006 Spring National Convention in Niagara Falls, New York. It was good to meet old acquaintances and make some new friends. It was cold (at least to me from Arizona, low 50's) and raining the first part of the hunt on Saturday but then the sun came out and the rest of the weekend was great. The National Board and Chapter Presidents held a meeting on Friday morning to discuss the affairs of FMDAC. Some of the things discussed was: the status of the Chapters, Communications with Club's, Legislative Bills working their way through Congress, Kid's Contest and our Sponsorship Program.

When I arrived back in Arizona, I went to work on a Form letter for the proposed bill called "Our Right to Public Lands Access". This bill will put the burden of studies and other requirements back on the **Government**, where it belongs, when it comes to "**Public Land**". This form letter is a collaboration effort of the Equal Access to Justice, GPAA, Deborah Strole and myself. This form letter was sent by email to all members, and others of interest, that I have addresses for. I asked them to pass it along, but in case they did not, a copy is included in this newsletter.

If you have any questions about the Chapter or FMDAC you can always contact me.
Good Luck Hunting!

Mike Smith
Chapter President

Western Chapter's Vice Presidents Corner

I have decided to write a number of articles over the next year related to promoting metal detecting clubs and / or the hobby in the local community. The first article is about creating and promoting a Metal Detecting Evidence Search assistance team for law enforcement. There are many law enforcement organizations (Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, State Agencies, etc.) that from time-to-time need help from people who know how to operate / use metal detectors in the search for evidence. This is a great opportunity by which clubs can achieve public service recognition that may be leveraged towards other community endeavors.

The very first thing a club needs to do is ***select an evidence search leader / chairperson to head up the effort***. This person should have a strong interest in this type of activity since he will be the primary contact between law enforcement agencies and the club. The club leader will also be responsible for the development and implementation of the evidence search plan that will be used by the search team.

Once the chairperson has been selected the following steps should be taken:

Contact and discuss the idea with your local law enforcement agencies,

Identify club volunteers and establish contact list for the evidence search team,

Develop a search method and identify tools that will be used by the team members,

Practice the selected search method with the club search team,

Promote your final plan to law enforcement agencies

Update the plan / contact list quarterly and have the chairperson report on activities at club meetings.

Let's take the first item **contact** your local enforcement agency. A good idea would be to develop a preliminary outline as to what your club can provide when called upon to assist in using metal detectors for an evidence search. In your preliminary outline take a look at how many searchers you may have available and what the club's reaction time for a request to assist would be. Make sure your law enforcement contact is involved in criminal matters and explore the club's idea with them to get their reaction. Gather their thoughts on the subject, their level of interest and who the agency contact will be in the future. If you note a good degree of interest from the various agencies proceed to the next step.

A very important next step in the club's evidence recovery assistance plan is to **identify** club members that are interested in this public service. These members should have their own equipment, be familiar with target identification, know proper recovery techniques and be available on short notice. The list should be divided into two sections:

Those that can be available on very short notice (at least six persons),

Those that can be available to help but can not commit to short notice or a specific time period.

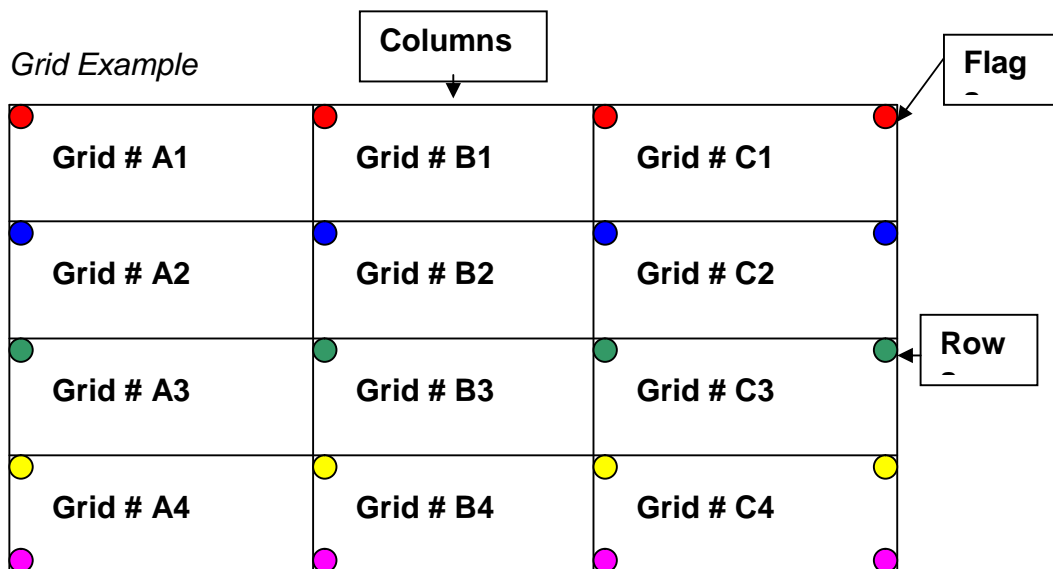
Now **develop** the method that will be used to provide a through search of a given area. There are a few issues that you as chairperson should consider.

- 1) All evidence search members should be trained in proper search methods (i.e.: detector swing speed, ground coverage or overlap, coil height, and detector setup.)
- 2) The recommended search method to use is a grid search pattern. Each club member should be assigned to a specific grid element or elements and reassigned

once their portion of the grid has been searched until the object is located. See Grid Example Below.

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- 3) It is also recommend that you go to a home supply store and purchase 6-10 sets of colored 15" Sprinkler Flags to outline / setup the search grid. Use the flags to highlight the grid elements on the ground being searched by using a different color for each column or row.
- 4) The grid should be documented on paper with each searchers name and where the evidence or item was found, this may become important later if the data is required during a court proceeding.
- 5) The target recovery method to be used should be discussed before the search starts so as not to damage the evidence upon recovery. Use plastic tools and gloves - do not handle the evidence directly. Before you start also give consideration to having a sample of the evidence available so that members may calibrate / check their metal detector again the sample.
- 6) There should always be a law enforcement contact on site during any recovery assistance operation and follow their direction / input for the recovery method if they suggest one.



Once the method of search has been selected have the club team **practice** on some land. Plant objects such as bullets, shell casing and other small objects in the grid. Assign searchers to the grid elements and began the practice session. Continue this process until each member has found the assigned object on their first pass for their assigned portion of the grid. **Practice, Practice, Practice!**

Promote your Evidence Recovery assistance team by creating a Club Flyer or Club Brochure and personally distribute this Flyer or Brochure to your law enforcement contacts. Follow up with your contacts frequently so as to maintain visibility of the club program with them.

Update your process quarterly, by verifying availability of search members, review experience gained from actual evidence searches and continue to **practice** the process with team members.

This type of club promotion can be very rewarding for law enforcement, the involved club members and the club. If you have questions or comments e-mail me @:
leewiese@excite.com

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Western Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

In Arizona: ATU's Bill Venable helped a lady find her two lost rings. Way to go Bill!

In Colorado: Independent Member David Booco won a 2 peso Gold coin at the 2006 Spring Convention.

In California: WCPTHA's Fred Booth returned a Class ring to its owner. SCRRC has a new club logo. CSD had a great article on being "Ambassadors" of our hobby.

In Nevada: SSDC has the most FMDAC members in the Western Chapter.

KIDS CONTEST 2006

This year's topic for the essay is:

"If you could metal detect any where in the world, where would that be and why?"

Please send to Frank by **October 15th** at:
Frank Colletti 1439 Stephen Marc Lane East Meadow, NY 11554

QUARTERLY REPORT FMDAC - WESTERN CHAPTER

2nd QUARTER (APR, MAY, JUN) 2006

1st National Bank Buffalo Wyoming

Beginning Balance as of 4/1/06: **\$357.87**

Debits:

Ck # 1004, 4/15: Pro Mack South - Newsletter copying \$24.00

Ck #1005, 4/15: Mike Smith - Newsletter paper, postage \$29.26

Ck #1006, 4/27: Judy Stobbe - reimburse for

Banquet at FMDAC Convention **\$30.00**

Credits:

Check from FMDAC - 1st Qtr Allowance **\$87.00**

Ending Balance as of 6/30/06 **\$361.61**

Submitted by:

Judy Stobbe Secretary/Treasurer

Calendar of Events

November 10th, 11th, and 12th – FMDAC 2006 Fall Convention is to be held at the Bay Watch Resort in North Myrtle Beach, SC. For more Information contact Duane at 724-439-1380 or Jill at 330-364-1608.

SAMPLE LETTER

Date: _____

To: Congressman Rick Renzi
102 North Cortez Suite 208
Prescott, AZ 86301

I am writing to ask you to support Deborah Strole's legislative proposal, we have titled, "Our Right to Public Lands Access Bill".

This bill will require the government to prepare "take permits" for each "class of activity" program, instead of putting the burden of a "take permit" on the individual.

The burden of documentation, bonding, cultural studies, archaeological and environmental studies would be on the government, not the people, where it belongs.

This bill will also allow the people directly affected by each "class of activity" to participate in the process and the development of each program, unlike today's system where mainly the environmentalist has the only say.

This bill will also require the government, by law, to issue a permit and make them affordable to the individual.

With this simple bill, We the People, will have access and use rights of the "public lands" across this great nation. Please support this bill.

Respectfully,

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 SAFE PLACES ONLY.

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

**FMDAC WESTERN CHAPTER
351 S PALO VERDE DRIVE
APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85220**