



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

WESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 3

July, August, September 2006

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Hello from the President's Desk,

It has been a long hot summer here in Arizona. A lot has happened since the last newsletter went out at the end of June. Our NE Chapter President, Tony D'Angelo, passed away, we had our Mid-Atlantic Chapter President, Harry Niemeyer, retire and our National VP, Jim Beyers, step down temporarily for health reasons. Our National President, Duane Biller, appointed people to replace these individuals until the National Election at the end of this year or the Chapter Elections next year. Our new NE Chapter President is John Howard, the new Mid-Atlantic Chapter President is Vic Kramer and our Temporary VP is Ed Burke.

Talking about elections, there is only one contested position at the National Elections this time. Present, National Secretary Frank Colletti, is being challenged by present, Central States VP Dave Perry, for the National Secretary's position. Clubs and Independents, don't forget to get your vote in for this National Election.

We have changed the rules on the FMDAC Website Calendar. Now any club can send in their information on hunts or events and have it posted to the website. If you know of any announcements, please send them to Central States VP Dave Perry, as he manages the Calendar portion of the website.

I have been looking into the CA Coastal National Monument, established by former President Clinton in 2000. As I read the law, metal detecting can still be pursued on the beach's, even through it is a National Monument. I believe that the "law" will need better clarification in order for the BLM/State/Counties and Cities to properly adhere to it. With multiple jurisdictions, the law can get very complicated and if left unchecked can be abused by government officials. Has anyone experienced any problems in relation to this Act?

I will be attending the 2006 FMDAC Fall Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC in November and I hope to see you there!

Our Chapter Membership keeps growing and I thank all of you that have made that happen!

Mike Smith
Western Chapter President

Western Chapter's Vice Presidents Corner

I am new to the hobby. **What Metal Detector should I purchase?**

By Lee Wiese, FMDAC VP Western Chapter

This is a question that most of us have asked ourselves and continue to be asked by others interested in joining the hobby. I like many of you have been metal detecting for a while but still find it hard to come up with the best detector for certain types of detecting (coins, jewelry, relics, water, prospecting) in part because new detectors are constantly becoming available from manufactures.

So again, why is it so hard to answer this question? The detector companies have not made this question easily answered take a look at **TABLE ONE** on the next page. There are 68 detectors in the table from six detector companies listed in the top row of the table. On the left side of the table a range of detector pricing in \$100 dollar increments is shown for three groups of detectors: *General Purpose*, *Water* and *Prospecting*. Placed under each company and in a price range is a detector type or model. Also on the left side of the table next to the price range is a RED ARROW pointing downward with the words PRICE, FEATURES, and TECHNOLOGY. Keep in mind: **FEATURES** plus **TECHNOLOGY** equal **PRICE**. This is not a complete list of detectors in the market place but a good representation.

Why it is so hard to answer the question: "What metal detector should I purchase?"

By looking at **TABLE ONE** you can see there are **many** *general-purpose* detectors available per given price range and in most cases they will have similar features and capabilities. Also there is a good deal of price variance per detector company and as the price goes up for a given company's detectors so do the number of features and usually performance capability. Features certainly can add to overall performance but also can make the detector much more complex to setup, operate, and learn for the average person. *General Purpose* detector enhancements come in the form of adding a display, more software and hardware switches to turn on features, and the ability to change to different size or different functional coils. (Note: *General Purpose* detectors are generally coin, jewelry and relic detectors.)

The criteria used to select your first *General Purpose* detector may follow along this line of reasoning. You should first decide how frequent you will use the detector; don't spend big bucks and have an expensive detector in the closet.

- a) If you are going to use the detector for vacation and a occasional weekend keep your decision focused on a price range of \$300 or lower and compare the feature sets between manufactures to find the best detector for you.
- b) If you are going to get into the hobby and use the detector more frequently you might place your attention on detectors in the \$500-\$700+ price ranges. More research on your part must take place by comparing features between detectors and companies to identify a match for your detecting needs.
- c) If you are very serious about the hobby you may want to look at detectors in the \$700 - \$1,300 ranges. You will find a large number of technological driven detecting features. These detectors tend to be more complex; the learning curve much longer but over time the quality of targets recovered can be very good to excellent.

Water detectors are driven more by TECHNOLOGY (See RED ARROW) than features. There are features but they tend to be limited to a certain feature set among the detector companies. The decision to purchase a *Water* detector is a bit easier since there are fewer available choices. The major decision factors for a *Water* detector are price, company, and whether you want a Pulse Induction (PI), Very Low Frequency (VLF) or a Multi-frequency technology detector.

Prospecting detectors are design specifically to look for gold, but can be used for other types of detecting. The decision to purchase a *Prospecting* detector will hinge on the performance required, frequency of use and price. Usually Gold *Prospecting* is the major and only reason to purchase this type of detector.

In summary give consideration to the following before laying out cash for your first detector. How **frequently am I going to use the detector? What **type** of detecting (coins, jewelry, relics, water, prospecting) am I going to use the detector for? How much money should I **plan** to spend?**

Once you have answered these questions move forward with your research. Compare detector specifications between companies, seek out a metal detecting club in your area and ask questions, ask a friend in the hobby, visit metal detecting forums on the web and ask questions, visit your local metal detector dealer and seek out their advice. Remember everyone you ask will be bias toward their specific detector and company. I hope this provides some insight into the complexity of answering the question: "***What metal detector should I purchase?***" For questions or comments contact me at: lee-wiese@excite.com

TABLE ONE

Metal Detectors

General Purpose *	Bounty Hunter	Fisher	Garrett	Minelab	Tesoro	White's
Price Range						
0\$ - \$99.99	Junior VLF Gold Digger					
\$100 - \$199.99	Fast Tracker Quick Silver Tracker II Tracker IV	1212-X	ACE 150		Compadre	
\$200 - \$299.99	Lone Star Quick Draw II	1225-X	ACE 250			Prizm II
\$300 - \$399.99	Sharp Shooter II	1236-X2		Musketeer Advantage	Silver umax	Prizm III
\$400 - \$499.99	Land Star Camo LS		GTAx 550	X-Terra 30	Cibola	Prizm IV
\$500 - \$599.99	Land Ranger	ID Excel	CX Plus		De Leon Golden umax Vaquero	Prizm V
\$600 - \$699.99	Time Ranger	1270	GTP 1350			Matrix M6
\$700 - \$799.99			GTI 1500	Sovereign GT	Tejon	MXT
\$800 - \$899.99				X-Terra 50 X-Terra 70	Cortes	XLT
\$900 - \$999.99		CZ-3D		Quattro MP		
\$1,000 - \$1,099.99		Coin Strike	GTI 2500			DFX
\$1,300 - \$1,399.99				Explorer II Explorer SE		
Water	Bounty Hunter	Fisher	Garrett	Minelab	Tesoro	White's
Price Range						
\$600 - \$699.99					Sand Shark PI	Surf PI Pro
\$700 - \$799.99		1280-X	Sea Hunter Mark II		Tiger Shark	BeachHunter ID
\$1,200 - \$1,299.99			Infinium LS	Excalibur		
Prospecting	Bounty Hunter	Fisher	Garrett	Minelab	Tesoro	White's
Price Range						
\$500 - \$599.99			Gold Stinger			
\$700 - \$799.99					Lobo	GMT
\$800 - \$899.99		Gold Bug II				
\$900 - \$999.99				Eureka Gold		
\$1,900 - \$1,999.99				SD 2100v2		
\$2,400 - \$2,499.99				SD 2200v2		
\$3,900 - \$3,999.99				GP 3500		

Price Range
0\$ - \$99.99
\$100 - \$199.99
\$200 - \$299.99
\$300 - \$399.99
\$400 - \$499.99
\$500 - \$599.99
\$600 - \$699.99
\$700 - \$799.99
\$800 - \$899.99
\$900 - \$999.99
\$1,000 - \$1,099.99
\$1,300 - \$1,399.99
Water
\$600 - \$699.99
\$700 - \$799.99
\$1,200 - \$1,299.99
Prospecting
\$500 - \$599.99
\$700 - \$799.99
\$800 - \$899.99
\$900 - \$999.99
\$1,900 - \$1,999.99
\$2,400 - \$2,499.99
\$3,900 - \$3,999.99

Sept. 19, 2006

Due to space limitation not all detector-manufacturing companies have been listed in the above table. Data for this table came from manufacturer's websites and select retailers.

* General-purpose detectors are generally (coin, jewelry and relic detectors)

Western Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

Arizona Treasures Unlimited raised their dues from \$25 to \$30 per year, first time in 15 years, due to increase in the cost of operating. They have had some fantastic find this summer, even with the heat.

Coinshooters of San Diego holds mini-hunts every month (average 20 to 25 participants) with the prizes donated by the members. This is a very active club, as I am always amazed at the Show and Tell listing of items found each month.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs located a lost diamond earring stud for a Mr. Kobalter, a non-member. Mr. Kobalter surprised them with a \$200 donation to the club. Way to go!

Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery is still gaining members and visitors from the ad in the local newspaper. Working with the local Fairground manager, they have arranged permission to hunt it with some restrictions.

Silver State Detecting had a member find a hidden pickle jar with \$600 in silver dollars inside.

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 **November 1st** at:

Frank Colletti 1439 Stephen Marc Lane East Meadow, NY 11554

QUARTERLY REPORT - WESTERN CHAPTER

3rd QUARTER (JUL, AUG, SEP) 2006

1st National Bank Buffalo Wyoming

Beginning Balance July 1: **\$361.61**

Debits:

Ck # 1007, 7/6: FMDAC, (M. Smith Banquet Ticket) \$30.00

Ck # 1008, 7/6: Pro Mack South (Copying newsletter) \$43.80

Ck # 1009, 8/29: Mike Smith (Postage - newsletter) \$18.00

\$ 269.81

Credits:

Check from FMDAC - 2nd Qtr Allowance \$46.00

Balance as of 9/30/06 **\$315.81**

Submitted by: Judy Stobbe Secretary/Treasurer

2007 Spring Convention

We would like to have as many of you attend this event, as the Western Chapter is the sponsor. If your club would like to set up a display booth at the Convention, please contact Chapter President Mike Smith, there is no charge.

FMDAC Patches and Stickers

We have a new batch of FMDAC patches and stickers in stock. The 3" patch sells for \$3.00. The 4" sticker is \$1.50 and the 2" sticker is \$1.00. You can order these through your Chapter or through the National organization.

Calendar of Events

November 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2006 – 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.

February 4th, 2007 – FMDAC Western Chapter 2nd Annual Diggin in the Desert Treasure Hunt is to be held in Mesa, AZ. For more information or hunt packet contact Mike Smith at 480-983-7011 or email promack@quik.com.

May 4th, 5th, 6th, 2007 – FMDAC 2007 Spring Convention to be held in Mesa, AZ. More details will be in the next newsletter. The Western Chapter will sponsor this event.

Fall 2007 – FMDAC Western Chapter will be holding a metal detecting hunt in north central California. More details will be in the next newsletter.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CODE OF ETHICS AND ENJOY THE HOBBY

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**