



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

WESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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Hello from the President's Desk,

Welcome to the New Year, 2007! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season. The last quarter of the year went by pretty quick, with the planning for the upcoming hunts here in Arizona, and the 2006 Fall Convention taking place in South Carolina, back in November.

In the last quarterly newsletter, I asked if anyone was experiencing any trouble with the CA Coastal National Monument, Former President Clinton established in 2000. I received no replies, so I will take that as a no. So I will next look into changing of the State of Arizona's antiquities law. This will be a long process, with trying to find a State Senator and Congressman and having them propose the changes needed. On State Land, the law now claims any item over 100 years old belongs to the State of Arizona, not that the item needs to be of any **Historical or Archaeological Significance**, like the Federal Law states. I will be calling on all of our members from the Arizona Clubs and our Independent Members to assist in this endeavor over the next year or so.

I attended the 2006 Fall Convention in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina back in November. It was well attended, with members from across the states. We had over 150 hunters in the main hunt on Sunday. I hope that we exceed the 2006 Fall Convention attendance when we (the Western Chapter) sponsor the 2007 Spring Convention held here, in Arizona, in May. I am asking all of our Western Chapter clubs to set up a display table at this Convention. It will cost the club nothing for the space and table. I know that your members have found some great and exciting finds over the past year, proudly display them at this Spring Convention.

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

Mike Smith
Western Chapter President
www.fmdac.org

Western Chapter's Vice Presidents Corner

Metal Detector Member Certification Program

By Lee Wiese, FMDAC Western Chapter Vice President

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This article involves responsible metal detecting and the community. While practicing the hobby of metal detecting there have been a number of issues and questions that continues to come to one's attention. These issues have been evident while metal detecting at large, at club hunts, in metal detecting conversations and during some recent club visits as VP of the Western Chapter. So what are the issues and questions?

Generally, it is the lack of knowledge by both new people to the hobby and some old timers. This lack of knowledge covers issues like where one can / cannot go metal detecting, proper methods of pin-pointing and minimizing ground cover damage during target recovery. I am sure that most everyone who metal detects has been exposed to similar situations and has seen first hand the results of very poor target recovery, or has talked to someone who has been asked to leave a specific detecting place due to lack of permission. As more people start to practice the hobby proper training and guidance will become essential for responsible detecting. Without proper education / training the result will be damaged property, public entities banning metal detecting, and arrests; all negatively impacting the reputation of the hobby.

These are the issues that have prompted me to suggest creating a club **Member Certification Program** at every metal detecting club. *I would like to put a disclaimer here: this is not a current FMDAC program or has FMDAC considered sponsoring such a program.* However, I am willing to work with a club or clubs to establish such a certification program for its members.

Let's explore what a possible club metal detecting *Certification Program* would cover. A certification program is meant to certify metal detecting club members in a classroom environment on responsible metal detecting. The class would be approximately 6-8 hours in length, would cover an **introduction** to detecting, **ethics** for detecting, **where** to hunt, **how** to use a metal detector, and recovering targets

Below is a four point outline for a club member certification program or some may call it a Metal Detecting 101 class.

- 1) The class would start with an **introduction** and discussion on:
 - The various Types of Metal Detecting (coins, jewelry, beach / water, prospecting, relics)
 - Who are the metal detector Manufacturers
 - General or Multi-purpose, Water, Prospecting, Relic Detectors
 - How to Purchase (local dealers, Internet, etc.)
 - Equipment and other Detecting Accessories
 - The Internet and Metal Detecting
 - National and State Metal Detecting Organizations

(VP Article Continued)

2) Instruction and discussion on:

- Metal Detecting **Ethics**
- Acquiring Permission to Metal Detect
- Written and Verbal Contracts
- Research (old newspapers, library, photos, etc.)

3) The class would cover **where** you can & cannot metal detect:

- Local Public (parks, schools, public building grounds, beaches, pool areas, etc.)
- State (parks, recreation areas, beaches, historical sites, etc.)
- National (parks, forest, recreation areas, beaches, Historical sites, etc.)
- Private lands, lakes, resorts and beaches.

The section on the Local Public area and State can be tailored to a specific club's location.

4) Next the class should cover **how** to:

- Turn-on and Setup a Detector
- Control Proper Swing and Coil Height
- Proper Pin Pointing of a Target
- Proper Recovery of a Target

Section (4) should be covered in a classroom and then practiced under classroom conditions in the field.

The certification class would be a requirement for every current member and every new member that joins a club.

At the completion of the class there can be recognition, with a certificate of completion or some other award.

This program can be a great selling point to your community authorities. The certification program demonstrates the clubs commitment to obeying laws, following good methods for practicing the hobby, and a willingness to reach out to educate its members and the community. The certification class can be used at schools to introduce students to the hobby, or offered as a metal detecting 101 class at your local community center.

In one case, I have witnessed a club that was able to get global permits for club members from city and school authorities by using a similar approach. In another case a club uses such a program to educate the community at large. It will work, and as more and more people join the hobby it will be a must in every club if the hobby is to continue to have access to public and private lands.

National Election News

The results are in and Dave Perry is the new Secretary and Editor of the Quest. He won the only contested position on a vote of 25 to 23 for Frank Colletti. He will assume the job on the 1st of January. Please support Dave as the new Editor by sending him articles for the Quest at djperry900@peoplepc.com .

Western Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

Arizona Treasures Unlimited The Annual Holiday Hunt will be held January 20th for members only. The oldest coin found in the last quarter, by a member, was an 1834 Penny.

Silver State Detecting A member located an 1877 Carson City Dime, in this quarter.

Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs Once again this club's members have come through and located a lost ring for a non-member. The ring's owner rewarded the club for their efforts with a gift certificate. Lois Wiese, while at the FMDAC Fall Convention in SC, found a 14Kt gold ring with 7 stones (diamonds?) in the setting.

Coinshooters of San Diego A member located a 14Kt gold ring covered with diamonds and amethyst. The club will vote for the Best Finds of 2006 in January.

Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery Held a hunt at the local Fairground, which had previously been closed to them, back in October. A lot of change and some jewelry were located. Voting for club Officers will be in January.

West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunters Have not heard from this club lately.

Tips for Finding Prizes for Your Hunts

Don't be shy! All they can say is no! Be clean and polite. Have with you copies of your hunt forms and the club's non-profit status paperwork to leave with the business contact. Be sure to write down the contact's name, date of contact and phone number, in case you need to get a hold of them again.

Most local businesses want to support the local clubs. Major chain stores like Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe's, Big 5 and Sears have programs set up to donate to non-profit organizations. Of course don't forget your local metal detecting stores, as well, as your local Historical Society.

2007 Spring Convention May 4th, 5th and 6th

We would like to have as many of you attend this event, as the Western Chapter is the sponsor. This will be a 3-day event, with hunts all 3 days. Go to www.fmdac.org to download the forms.

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

February 4th, 2007 – FMDAC Western Chapter 2nd Annual Diggin in the Desert Treasure Hunt is to be held in Mesa, AZ. This hunt is for members and non-members. 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/Goldfield, AZ. The Western Chapter will sponsor this event. The hunts are for **members only**. Displays and Seminars are open to the public. Contact Chapter President Mike Smith for more information or go online to www.fmdac.org.

Fall 2007 – FMDAC Western Chapter would like to hold a hunt centrally located for the Chapters clubs. We are still working out the details for this. Looking at holding it, in conjunction, with the Foresthill, CA “Heritage Celebration” and California State Gold Panning Championship, if they have the space, Labor Day Weekend. This will be an open hunt to the public and members. If you have any suggestions, please contact our Chapter Officers.

QUARTERLY REPORT FMDAC - WESTERN CHAPTER 4th QUARTER (OCT, NOV, DEC) 2006 1st National Bank Buffalo Wyoming

Beginning Balance October1: **\$ 315.81**
Debits: Ck # 1010, Pro Mack South
(3rd Qtr Newsletter/Hunt Flyers copying, paper, stamps) 90.24

Balance as of 12/31/06 **\$ 225.57**

Submitted by:
Judy Stobbe
Secretary/Treasurer

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
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