



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

# WESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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## Hello from the President's Desk,

This is my first newsletter as the new "President". Cecil Lane from Dutch Flat, California stepped down as the President just before the Fall Convention in Florida. As the Vice President for the last two years, I was asked to fill the position. Talking about Florida, I just returned from the convention held in Panama City. The weather was beautiful and the beach was covered in fine white sand. You missed a great time. We had close to a couple hundred members swarming the beach hunting for silver and gold prizes. This was my first time at beach hunting. The display that Odyssey Marine Exploration brought from the SS Republic was impressive. For insurance purposes, they did not bring the gold and diamonds but it was still a sight to see.

I attended the Chapter President's Board Meeting at the convention and was brought up to date on my responsibilities. I have a lot to do to bring this Chapter back up to what it use to be. At the present time, we have 178 card-carrying members in 8 clubs, in only three of our seven states. I will be contacting the clubs that were members at one time and if you know of any clubs in your area that are not members, please contact me with their information. Hopefully, you or I can bring them back into the community. I know you feel the Western Chapter has not been too active but that is going to change! Numbers are the only thing besides money that politicians will listen too!

One way to increase your membership is though the program FMDAC has arranged with Wal Mart. They will let the club come down and set up a booth at no cost. Plus I can get you items to give away to potential club members. Who does not like FREE gifts? **A couple hours of your time can help save your hobby.**

I am here to listen and help. Contact me at the above number or email address.

Mike Smith, Western Chapter President

Status of Western Chapter Membership			
State:	Clubs:	Members:	Independents:
Arizona	4	72	10
California	3	48	13
Colorado	0	0	0
Hawaii	0	0	0
Nevada	1	34	1
Utah	0	0	0
Wyoming	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>25</b>

I do not have much to report this Quarter. Once the clubs in the chapter send me their newsletters I will be able to keep you all up to date on their activities and finds.. We have \$158 in our Chapter account, not much to work with, but through fundraising at the GPAA Gold Show in Mesa, AZ (February 2006) and membership dues that will soon come in, we will manage.

If you want to know what is going on in the Chapter, send me your email address. That is the quickest way for me to answer your questions or take care of your problems. Most problems need a quick answer or reply, you can not wait three months for the next Chapter Quest to bring you the news.

### **Report from Fall Convention – Panama City, FL**

**The Western Chapter had a few members attend this event. It was good to see and meet members from around the country. The Chapter had two members win nice prizes, besides the coins they found on the hunt field. A list of all the winners is on the website [www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org)**

A member of the West Coast Prospectors won a 2 peso gold coin and Jim Bozeman from the San Diego Coinshooters won the Betty Week Clock. Congratulations to all the winners.

### **Calendar of Events:**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – FMDAC Western Chapter is holding a silver and gold metal detecting hunt at the GPAA Show in Mesa, AZ. For more information or a hunt package call Mike Smith at 480-983-7011 or email [promack@quik.com](mailto:promack@quik.com)

April 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 – Great Southern Beach Shootout to be held at Daytona Beach, FL. For more information call Ray Leist at 386-428-3401 or email [huntmaster@ucnsb.net](mailto:huntmaster@ucnsb.net)

May 5 – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 – FMDAC Spring Convention is being held in Niagara Falls, NY. For more information call Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608 or email [jcseeker@core.com](mailto:jcseeker@core.com)

# Treasures in Your State

## Arizona

### Vekol Treasure

North of the town of Vekol, a half ton of Silver bars are buried. Somewhere on the road from Vekol to Casa Grande, John Walker, famous for his silver mine, buried the 300 silver ingots during a legal dispute with his two brothers. During the trial John had a stroke and was committed to an asylum hospital. where he later died in 1891. So if you can figure out how far a load horse drawn wagon can travel in 35 to 45 minutes you might be rich.

### Silver King Outhouse Silver

The Silver King Mine near Superior, AZ produced millions of dollars in silver. It is a known fact that stagecoaches in the area were being held up so they started pouring big 60 LB bars to discourage this. One man decided to hide his silver in his outhouse, surely a thief would not rummage in there. But Mother Nature had a different idea, for in 1883 a gully washer swept away this mans outhouse, down Silver King Wash. Only a few of his bars were recovered the rest are still out there.

## California

### 1930's Lost Robbers Loot

Two men robbed a Bank in Needles, CA in the early 1930's. North of the town of Oro Grande, the car they had fled in broke down. They quickly buried the loot along the Mojave River and headed south for Victorville, CA. along the way the Victorville Police picked them up as they tried to hitchhike. Sentenced to prison for the robbery, they both died before being released, one in an attempt to escape. Both refused to give up the exact location.

### Vallecito Stage Station

This station was part of the Butterfield Stage Line and now resides in the Vallecito Stage Station County Park. This was a very busy route as it took goods and travelers from Los Angeles to Yuma Many bandits preyed on the caravans in the area. One such bandit buried his loot in a nearby small canyon but was ambushed shortly after by the posse in pursuit. Another is supposed to have buried his in ollas and stashed them in a small cave nearby this stage station. This area has up to \$200,000 in gold and silver coins buried at face value.

### Mt Shasta Wells Fargo Gold

In May of 1859, the Lassen to San Francisco stage was held up near Weed, CA. On board was a shipment of \$50 gold coins with a value of \$128,000. The robbers killed both the driver and guard; loaded two pack mules and headed towards Mt Shasta's western slope. A posse was soon after them and found the two pack mules, but the pack were empty. The posse overtook the robbers about three miles away. A gun battle ensued and all the robbers were dead. The area was searched for over a week without coming up with the gold coins.

## **Nevada**

### **Ragtown Goodies**

This place was later called Letteville. This location was once a stage stop for the Overland Road. It was one of the last stops before climbing over the steep Sierras so it was also a place the travelers discarded extra weight. It is told that as many as five or six wagon trains would be there at a time, usually camped down by the Humbolt River. Think of all the goodies in the area.

**Good Luck in your adventures but follow the laws, please!**

### **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**

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