

GMDC NEWS

February 2017



“Can you dig it? We can!”

**detectinghistory@
yahoo.com**

Club Officers

President

Susannah Kriegshauser

Vice President

Jim Hammond

Treasurer

John Westermayer



President's Corner

By Susannah Kriegshauser

Hello fellow dirt fishers!

Starting a new detecting year is always exciting. What quirky object or fabulous silver will we find? 35 members came to our first meeting of the year and were raring to go. Welcome to our newest members who want to join our fun--Clifton Avers, Marvin Gilliam, and Ron Prebianca.

Please renew your membership by the April meeting. After that, your name will be taken off the email list and you won't be eligible for member-only events like the Mystery Hunts.

Our March meeting will have a presentation on coin and jewelry cleaning by Rob Willett. This is just one of our interesting talks coming throughout the year, including how to defend yourself while detecting, Bring Your Detector Night, ghost towns, underwater recovery, and more.

Our new officers are Joe Mefford, vice-president, and Pat Reece, secretary. Both have already jumped in with new ideas and much needed help on the website. Thanks to both! We now have archive sections for both the Interesting Finds and the Newsletters. We also have a new tab on the site explaining the Genevieve Method for those who don't know it. We will also have another tab for our club library which we will talk about soon.

The first Metal Detecting Basics class will be March 25 from 9-2. Check the website for details.

Our In the Loupe article this month is from Bill Seibel. Please consider sending in your own article about how you got started in detecting. We would love to hear from you! And we would love it if you attached a photo of yourself so that others could identify you at the next meeting. If you would like to see how it's done, just check our previous newsletters.

Our Finds of the Month contest is up and running. Bring your Oldest Coin, Most Valuable Coin, or Oddest Object **that was found in the month previous to the meeting** for a chance to win. With the weather the way it's been, I'm sure there's going to be a jump in entries!

Happy Hunting!

CALENDAR

Feb 07: GMDC meeting

NO HUNT IN FEB

Mar 07: GMDC meeting

Mar 11: GMDC hunt.

Columbia, IL

Mar 25: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Apr 01: CW Park Day

MO CW Museum

Apr 04: GMDC meeting

Apr 08: GMDC hunt.

Wilmore Park

May 02: GMDC meeting

May 06: GMDC hunt.

Mystery Hunt.

May 27: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Jun 03: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Jun 06: GMDC meeting

Jun 10: GMDC hunt.

TBD

Jun 19: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

NO JULY MEETING

Jul 03: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Jul 08: GMDC hunt.

TBD

Aug 01: GMDC meeting

Aug 05: GMDC hunt.

Mystery Hunt

Sep 05: GMDC meeting

Sep 09: GMDC **BBQ**

Oct 03: GMDC meeting

Oct 07: GMDC hunt.

TBD

Nov 07: GMDC meeting

Nov 11: GMDC hunt

Mystery Hunt

Dec 05: GMDC meeting

NO HUNT IN DECEMBER

NO MTG OR HUNT IN JAN

Monthly Meeting Notes

The first meeting of the year was called to order at 7:00 pm. There were **35 in attendance.**

We welcomed new members Clifton Avers, Marvin Gilliam, and Ron Prebianca.

Our new officers were voted in: Joe Mefford, vice-president, and Pat Reece, secretary. Congratulations!

Our outgoing vice-president Jim Hammond was thanked. He brought handouts from his cousin, a treasure ship diver, detailing where members can hunt for coins on the beaches from the 1715 wreck on the Florida coast.

Members will need to renew their membership by the April meeting or risk losing out on Mystery Hunts.

Crestwood Coin and Jewelers offers 10% discount to club members and will match any internet price. On detecting-related items only! They are getting in Garrett wireless headphones soon.

If your email or cellphone number has changed, please let us know.

Officers will always wear yellow vests to hunts so members know who to go to with questions or problems.

We have a box for donations to the museum. Mark Trout, curator of the museum, is considering several options on what we will be working toward. We hope some artifact!

You can enter the Volunteer Contest by giving us a hunt site, attending a detecting class, writing an article, helping or donating toward the BBQ, signing up for the CAT, or any other volunteer activity.

The Civil War Trust Park Day was discussed. We were only told by the museum several hours before the meeting that we needed to sign up for this that night, so not all club members would have a chance. **(More on this below).**

It was decided that flyers on out-of-state or overseas hunts will now be placed on the info table for those who are interested.

Attendance prizes: 1858 seated quarter, Mike Prugger, 1897 Barber quarter, Mark Harris, 1905 Barber quarter, Kathy Hesketh.

FOM: Oldest coin, 1927 Mercury dime, John Quinn, (no Most Valuable Coin entries), Oddest Artifact, bronze swan, Kathy Crowell.

50/50: Mike Prugger (who graciously donated it to the museum fund).

A great slideshow on their English finds was made by Jim Hammond, Pat Reece, and Susannah Kriegshauser.

IN THE LOUPE...

by Bill Seibel

Why metal detecting? I have always found pleasure in finding things lost. It didn't matter if it were lost by me or someone else. My wife always gives me "the look" (yes... the one like, "What are you going to do with that?!") as I lean over to collect some random surface find while on our walks through town. Dovetail in my enjoyment of history, and metal detecting just makes perfect sense. Now I can collect those unseen things!

What I find most interesting is digging those old finds whose purpose may not be immediately obvious (I like those things that have a personal story). Who could have dropped this and why? How did it wind up in this location and how long has it been hiding? Researching and learning about an item is nearly as fun as the dig itself. Learning the "who" has to be the most challenging unless the item is engraved, but even then the answer is not always guaranteed. Nevertheless, it's fun to speculate on the circumstances.

Since purchasing my detector in March of 2016 and joining the club, I have enjoyed meeting others with that similar passion in finding those things lost.

Thanks for the good times.



IDENTIFYING STERLING SILVER

by Pat Reece

This is a good website to help identify those odd silver and silver-plated knives, forks, and spoons you find. Most silverware will have some kind of inscription for the manufacturer on the back of the utensil. Once you have that, use this website to identify the particular pattern and year it was made through the alphabetical index.

<http://sterlingflatwarefashions.com/index.html>



ODDS AND ENDS

CIVIL WAR TRUST PARK DAY

April 1, 2017 10am-12:30pm
Missouri Civil War Museum
(wear old clothes and bring gloves)

Since 1996, the Civil War Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War — and now Revolutionary War — battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. Activities are chosen by each participating site to meet their own particular needs and can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and trail buildings.

Hours before the club meeting, plans were finalized for the MO Civil War Museum to join the list of sites. We were asked if our club would like to participate, and they needed an answer and number of participants that night. The officers brought it before the members, and 17 said they would participate. **(At this time we are not allowed to add more to the count).** We are sorry that we couldn't bring it before the entire membership, and hope that next year, since we now know the museum participates, that all of those interested will be able to join in.

CLUB & CAR SHOW

We are beginning the planning for a combined detecting finds display and car show to be held at the museum. **We will not be able to hold this until the 1918 building is in operation.** That could be several months. Members would have tables to showcase their finds for the public and be ready to explain a little about them. We would also have an informational table about the club. Members with unique, sporty, or "old beloved" cars, motorcycles,

or trucks will be able to show them off on the museum grounds. If you have a vehicle you would like to show, please let the officers know so that we can see if we have enough vehicles for this idea to be feasible.

VOLUNTEER CONTEST

We had quite good participation in this last year, but this year we decided to up the ante. We are beginning a new grading system to make things more fair.

5 entries--giving us a Civil War hunt site
4 entries--giving us a viable hunt site
3 entries--giving a presentation or talk
2 entries--writing a newsletter article
1 entry--all other volunteering, including donating items, being on the Community Assistance Team, volunteering for club activities like the BBQ, taking a metal detecting class, and others.

At our September BBQ, we will be awarding a Bounty Hunter metal detector from a name picked from all entries.

FIRST HUNT - MARCH 11

Bill Seibel's farm
24 Gall Road
Columbia, IL. 62236
8:30am-11:30am

Our first club hunt of the year will be at Bill Seibel's farm. His farmland has been in continuous use since 1874.

Finds there have been a gold ring, a copper ring from 1890-1909, a 1920's razor blade case, 1883 Indian Head penny, railroad items, farm items, several knives, and more. This time we will be hunting the 2-acre plot that was in crop last time.

Parking is very limited, so please try to carpool. In MO, we will meet **at 8am** at the Wal-Mart parking lot at 3276 Telegraph, 63129 next to the *Celebrate the Season* store.

TECH TALK

1942-over-41 Mercury dime

One of the most well-known mint errors is the 1942-over-41 Mercury dime, pictured here.



In 1941, toward the end of the year, 1941 10c dies were still being made as well as the dies for the coming year, 1942. Two of these dies became involved in an accident that created one of the few rarities in the silver “Mercury” dime series.

Coin dies are made in stages. To make a die able to strike coins, the design must be stamped into it twice by a master die or Hub. Between each impression, the unfinished die must be heated in a process called annealing.

A 1941 die and a 1942 die had both received their first stamping; now both dies were being annealed. When the dies were returned to receive their second stamping, the dies were accidentally switched. When they were stamped, both dies now had evidence of both the 1941 and 1942 date.

If you think you have this overdate dime, it will have both a “1” and a “2” as the last digit of the date. The “2” will be mostly to the right of the “1.” The 1942-D overdate will have the “2” in “1942” almost completely over the “1” and the “D” mintmark will have been

repunched, that is stamped over a “D” that was placed in the wrong position.

This coin error is very popular with collectors because of its unusual appearance, especially on the Philadelphia example. It’s worth at least \$400-500 in average circulated condition [2016]. Uncirculated pieces are very scarce and are worth more than \$1500 [2016].

By 1916, the previous [dime, quarter, and half dollar](#) designed by Mint Chief Engraver [Charles E. Barber](#) had been struck for 25 years, and could be replaced by the [Treasury](#). Enter the Mercury dime.

The **Mercury dime** is a [ten-cent coin](#) struck by the [United States Mint](#) from 1916 to 1945. Designed by [Adolph Weinman](#) and also referred to as the **Winged Liberty Head dime**, it gained its common name as the obverse depiction of a young [Liberty](#), identifiable by her winged [Phrygian cap](#), but was confused with the Roman god [Mercury](#). The coin's [reverse](#) depicts a [fasces](#), symbolizing unity and strength, and an [olive branch](#), signifying peace.

The Mint immediately made modifications to it upon learning that vending machine manufacturers were having difficulties making the new dime work in their devices. The coin continued to be minted until 1945. The Mercury dime was restruck in gold for its centenary in 2016.

Your coin should be authenticated by a numismatic expert. To be certain your coin is genuine, and to greatly increase its marketability, you should have it authenticated and certified as to grade by one of the independent third-party grading services such as the [Numismatic Guaranty Corporation \(NGC\)](#) or [Professional Coin Grading Service \(PCGS\)](#).

Gateway MD Club

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"Can you dig it? WE can!"

CLASSIFIEDS

If you want an ad in the
CLASSIFIEDS or **HUNT
BUDDIES**, please send them
through

detectinghistory@yahoo.com

**Additional patches can be
purchased from the officers for
\$2.00**

HUNT BUDDIES

Anyone needing someone to hunt with can
put an ad here.

WHO WE ARE

We are a group of detecting enthusiasts
whose aim is to get out there and have fun,
find fellowship, and find and preserve our
nation's history. We dig responsibly, act
respectfully, and operate legally. We invite
you to join us. You won't be disappointed!

MEETINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of every
month at

**Missouri Civil War Museum
222 Worth Road
St. Louis, MO 63125**

at

**7 pm
(Doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Open to the public

