

GMDC NEWS

March 2017



“Can you dig it? We can!”

Club Email
detectinghistory@
yahoo.com

Club Officers
President
Susannah Kriegshauser

Vice President
Vacant

Treasurer
John Westermayer

Secretary
Pat Reece



President's Corner

By Susannah Kriegshauser

Hello fellow dirt fishers!

Well the last two months' meetings have shown us that our club is alive and kicking! We had a packed house and lively discussions going everywhere on both occasions. Connecting with fellow detectorists, learning new ideas, and showing off finds are what these meetings are all about. Adding in lots of fun and possible silver or cash prizes doesn't hurt either. (And for all those who laughed at my remote control detecting car-- just you wait!)

Our club secretary Pat, has taken over the newsletter, and you will begin to see some exciting changes. But the officers don't want to write all the articles--this is a whole club affair. So please help her out and **send in a paragraph or two about something that interests you.** What did you find on your very first hunt...probably in your backyard? Have you detected at the beach? We want to know, so send those articles in. (Plus, you'll receive two entries for our Volunteer Contest with each article that you contribute!)

Due to popular demand, we are repeating "Bring Your Detector Night". This is especially aids our new members and for those without detectors yet. We found out, however, that everyone benefited from sharing tips, tricks, and stories. This year it will be held at our June meeting.

Lastly, we regret to inform everyone that our newly-elected VP, Joe Mefford, has found that pressures of work have caused him to resign as a club officer. We want to thank him and wife Jynnifer for their service, and especially with the website. We hope that both can still find the time to attend the club activities.

So now we are again asking our members to please consider volunteering for this position. Duties are light, but necessary. That's all for now!

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 second meeting of the year was called to order at 7:00 pm. There were **30+ in attendance**. We welcomed new member Tim Bouchard, and thanked Matt Huntman and Ed Meyer for their club renewals. Members will need to **renew their membership by the April meeting** or risk losing out on club communications and Mystery Hunts. If your email or cellphone number has changed, please let the club secretary know.

Hunt sites, hunt sites, hunt sites. The club needs locations that hold promise for artifacts, and can handle a group of 25-30 detectorists. Talk to a club officer if you think you have a possibility and keep it a secret so we can use it as one of our Mystery Hunt locations!

We have a box for donations to the museum. Mark Trout, curator of the museum, has decided that our contributions will go to the purchase of several swords and will feature a sign indicating that our club made the gift possible.

The 2017 signup sheet for the Community Assistance Team is available during meetings. Please be sure to add your name and cell phone number if you wish to volunteer this year. Once signed up, your cell phone number will be used for group text notifications as this will be quicker than emailing.

We have a new "What the Heck Is It?" feature during our club meetings where you can bring in items you weren't able to identify, and draw on the club's expertise to see if someone else can.

The club library has magazines and books that are available to check out. Information and instructions can be found under the Club Talk tab on the GMDC website.

Rob Willett provided a great presentation on coin cleaning, which everyone found informative and helpful.

Attendance prizes: Mike Prugger - 1901 Barber Quarter, Larry Van Behren - 1945 Walking Liberty Half, Cliff Avers - 5 Indian Head Pennies.

50/50: Lee Nunnally, \$44.00.

IN THE LOUPE...

by *Matt Huntman*

Let me introduce myself...my name is Matt Huntman. I am married with three wonderful kids and reside in Columbia, IL. I am a pharmacist by profession, but in my free time I enjoy metal detecting. I began metal detecting during the fall of 2015 after purchasing a Garrett AT Pro. I started out hunting old homesteads with a friend. We found lots of old relics and a few old coins, and I was instantly hooked! When I'm not out in the fields or woods hunting old house sites, I'm in a park somewhere looking for treasure, but nothing beats pulling out relics and coins from an old home site. I get as much enjoyment from finding neat things as I do researching sites and the finds themselves. I spend a lot of time researching old maps for house sites to detect.



I have two favorite finds in my short 1.5 years of detecting. Last fall I found a very special coin at an 1800's home site in the area. When I dug it, I thought it was a large button. At home after I cleaned it off, I nearly fainted. I had found an uncut Spanish 8 Reale dated 1800!

My other favorite find was also from last fall. A friend of the family contacted me to help find his daughter's lost wedding ring. Much to his surprise I found it within five minutes! I felt so proud to be able to return something that had so much sentimental value to his daughter.

I have become friends with some great people who share my same passion for this hobby. The thrill of the unknown is what keeps me coming back. You just never know what is hiding in the ground!

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY

It started with a call for help...

"My 9-year old lost her locket (a souvenir from our Alaskan vacation) in our large yard. We've looked and have been unable to locate it in our own. Hoping you might be able to help. Thank you."

...and ended with a smile!

Our club was contacted by email about a lost locket and arrangements were made for a couple of our Community Service members to meet and look for the item. Within five minutes of hunting, Rick C. found it with a NEL Thunder coil on his AT Pro.



In talking with the mother, we found out that the locket really wasn't replaceable because her daughter had panned the gold herself during their vacation. It's a beautiful piece of jewelry, and a great ending for all involved!



FINDS OF THE MONTH

Oldest Coin



John W. – 1900 Indian Head Penny
Prize: 1916D Barber Quarter

Most Valuable Coin



Eric H. – Standing Liberty Quarter
Prize: 1899 Barber Dime

Oddest Artifact



John Q. – Sterling silver zebra pin
Prize: Five Indian head pennies

FOM Contest Rules:

1. Fill out an entry form at the meeting, and hand it to Bill or Rick.
2. Only one entry per category, per person, is allowed.
3. You can enter each category, but can only win one (determined by the FOM committee).
4. Submissions should only include **new finds** found between the monthly meetings (honor system).
5. Everyone making a submission will receive one point. Category winners will receive two points.

Points will be recorded and tallied by the FOM committee. At the end of the year, the winner will receive a **FABULOUS prize**.

HUNTING AN OLD HOMESTEAD

by John Westermayer

The last weekend in February, Rick Crowell and I got a last-minute opportunity to hunt a property near Steelville, Mo. At first it appeared we would be hunting a site with a 1940's to 1950's house, barn, chicken coop and some old trailers. We had been watching the weather all week since the previous two weekends had been sunny and warm. The day started out in the 30's with the probability of gusty winds. Fortunately the sun was out and the wind was minimal.

What we found out after talking to the owner, was that the property had a private cemetery with a head stone dated around 1864. So, there must have been some old buildings. On the opposite hill from the

cemetery, we were shown an old two-story building, which you could tell was real old.

Since we had limited time to hunt, Rick and I hunted mainly around the old cabin. Rick found an old pocket knife, part of an old wood stove top, a mule shoe and other items. I found two old axe heads, mule shoes, and what appeared to be the rest of the wood stove top.



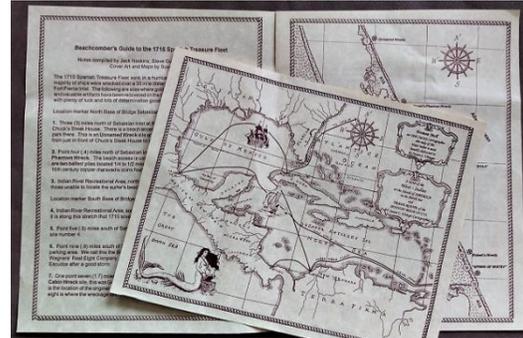
Near the newer home, Rick and I found pieces of wind chimes. Unfortunately we did not find any coins, but had an enjoyable day of hunting!

BEACHCOMBER'S GUIDE

Ever think about going on a treasure hunt? Jim Hammond has supplied the club with a large pamphlet that includes information about the 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet that sank in a hurricane off the east coast of Florida.



According to the document, "The majority of ships were wrecked over a 30-mile distance from Sebastian Inlet to just south of Fort Pierce Inlet." It then provides specific detail and maps about where gold and silver coins, gold jewelry, and valuable artifacts have been recovered from area beaches.



Thank you Jim, for this interesting information and donation to the club!

WAR NICKELS

Nickel became a critical war material when the United States entered World War II, and led to the creation of "War Nickels". According to Wikipedia, "Congress authorized a nickel made of 50% copper and 50% silver, but gave the Mint the authority to vary the proportions, or add other metals.

An alloy of 56% copper, 35% silver, and 9% manganese proved suitable to satisfying counterfeit detectors in vending machines, and was coined into nickels October 1942."



These nickels are easy to identify because of the large "S" over the image of Monticello. The original composition returned in 1946. So, check your finds to see if you own any of these historical coins!

Gateway MD Club

222 Worth Road
St. Louis, MO 63125

detectinghistory
@yahoo.com



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CLASSIFIEDS

If you want an ad in the
CLASSIFIEDS or **HUNT
BUDDIES** sections, 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:

**7:00 pm
(Doors open at 6:30 pm)**

Open to the public

