

GMDC NEWS

February 2018



“Can you dig it? We can!”

Club Email:
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Club Officers:

President
Susannah Kriegshauser

Vice President
Mackie Douglas

Treasurer
John Westermayer

Secretary
Pat Reece



President's Corner



By Susannah

Hello fellow dirt fishers!

Thank you for having enough faith in me to re-elect me as president for the next two years. Our journey together has been very humbling for me in seeing how everyone has pitched in to make this a GREAT club. We say good-bye to John Westermayer who has been our treasurer since the start, and welcome Rich Bereswell who has stepped up in his place. Welcome Rich!

Even though the year has started with horrible weather for detecting, it still is going to be a good year. This newsletter is jam-packed with interesting and informative articles from our members. These articles help everyone in the club, not just newbies. You all have a wealth of knowledge that you've earned through your detecting life, so why don't you take a minute and share with all of us?

Another exciting thing to look forward to are our Mystery Hunts. Our first is coming up on March 10 and is going to be in a great area. We will be heading out in the direction of Washington, MO, and will be starting from our normal place in Walmart parking lot next to Hwy 255. For those wishing to meet elsewhere, get a group together, let us know, and we will see how to meet up. I will be sending out details in a club email since the date is getting close, and we will also talk more about it at the March meeting. This Mystery Hunt site was given to us by Pam Popp, and she earns **4 entries in our Volunteer Contest for a new AT Pro!**

Please remember to always follow the rules and regulations of detecting, and city, state, and county laws. All are listed on the website under "Links", and are updated frequently. If anyone knows of any change not listed on there, let me know and I will update our listing. We always want detecting to have a good name, and following the law is where we start.

March 17 starts the **Metal Detecting Basics classes**. Please check under the "Classes" tab on the website for details about where to register.

Here's to a wonderful year of detecting and good fellowship with your fellow members!

Happy Hunting!

2018 CALENDAR

Feb 06: GMDC meeting

NO HUNT IN FEB

Mar 06: GMDC meeting

Mar 10: GMDC hunt

Mystery Hunt

Mar 17: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Apr 03: GMDC meeting

Apr 07: GMDC hunt

Site TBD

May 01: GMDC meeting

May 05: GMDC hunt

Site TBD

Mar 26: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Jun 05: GMDC meeting

Jun 09: GMDC hunt

Site TBD

Jun 23: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Jul 03: GMDC meeting

Jul 07: GMDC hunt

Site TBD

Jul 28: Metal Detecting

Basics Class

Aug 07: GMDC meeting

Aug 11: GMDC hunt

Mystery Hunt

Sep 04: GMDC meeting

Sep 08: GMDC **BBQ**

Oct 02: GMDC meeting

Oct 06: GMDC hunt

Site TBD

Nov 06: GMDC meeting

Nov 10: GMDC hunt

Mystery Hunt

Dec 04: GMDC holiday

party

**NO HUNT IN DECEMBER
NO MTG OR HUNT IN JAN**

Monthly Meeting Notes



Attendance at the first meeting of the year was a strong 34, and we welcomed Todd Gilliam, Chuck Jones, and Ben Quinn to the club! Susannah was re-elected President of the club, and Rich Bereswill was elected Treasurer. The club thanks John Westermayer for his two years of service as the founding Treasurer of the club.

Following the club vote at the end of last year, the 2018 Finds of the Month (FOM) contest will be changed next year to allow members to submit only **one find entry per month** instead of one entry per category.

Club short and long-sleeved tees (long-sleeved has a pocket) are available, and new for this year we also have fleece pullover hoodies with a front pouch. Medium, large, X large, and XX+ large sizes are available, and pricing is as follows:

- **Short-sleeved tee = \$15.00**
- **Long-sleeved tee = \$20.00**
- **Fleece pullover hoodie = \$25.00**

To order, send your size and type of shirt to the club email.

Our **2018 Volunteer Contest** has begun. Be sure to submit an entry slip in the box during club meetings based on this list of eligible activities, and you could win a **Garrett AT Pro!!**

- **Civil War hunt site – 5 entries**
- **Viable club hunt site – 4 entries**
- **Club presentation – 3 entries**
- **Published club newsletter article – 2 entries**
- **All other volunteering:** donating items, being on the Community Assistance Team (CAT), taking a metal detecting class, etc. – **1 entry**

We are looking for volunteers to provide presentations for club meetings. Topics could be something instructional, showing your finds, discussing your experiences in obtaining permissions, etc. You can submit **three entries** in the Volunteer Contest for hosting a presentation.

Attendance prizes: Steve Jacober – 1935 Mercury dime, John Westermayer – Indian Head penny replica savings bank, Bill Seibel – 1916 D Barber quarter.

50/50: Dan Harvey – \$51.00.

IN THE LOUPE...

By Jack Kountz

My name is Jack Kountz, I bought my first detector, a Bounty Hunter TR 550D, in 1975, and I found a lot of pull tabs and junk. I was very disappointed and put the detector away in the basement. One day while coaching a ball team I spotted two boys metal detecting on the field and asked them if they were having any luck and they showed me a few silver coins and two gold rings they had found.



Now this really re-peaked my interested in metal detecting. That weekend I got out my detector and went to an old house place in Kirkwood and found some old silver coins and two items from the 1904 World's Fair. That was in the late 1970's, and I was hooked on detecting. I hunted mostly older houses in Webster Groves and a few parks. I found many old coins, tokens, toys, and gold and silver items.

In 1979, I joined a local detecting club that had recently started up. At this club I met others with interests similar to mine and started to relic hunt. In the 1980's, I bought out Roy Volker's Search Electronics, and relocated and renamed it Search Metal Detector Sales. I operated it for 18 years. During this time I met a lot of people interested in detecting. I purchased a water detector and started hunting local beaches and then out of state. I also went on several cruises and hunted the beaches, where I found many gold and silver items.

I later went to a meeting at White's Electronics in Sweethome, OR and met Jimmy Sierra. My wife and I went on several trips with others to England to detect

and see the ancient sites, and found many hammered silver coins and a lot of relics--no gold, but Jimmy's trips were great.

Now that I'm getting older I have slowed down and mostly hunt in water. Detecting has been very important in my life, and I have enjoyed every moment of it...the club meetings, activities, and people I have met.

Editor note:

Just a reminder of a very successful Community Assistance Team (CAT) call where Jack found this beauty in one of the lakes at Innsbruck.



LINCOLN WARTIME CENTS: 1941-1946

by Dave Steck

One of the most common coins a metal detector locates is the Lincoln wheat penny. That said, here is a bit of "Wheat Cent" trivia.

The pennies of the wartime years of 1941 to 1946, if collected, provide a **sub-set of 18 coins within a set**, consisting of a coin from each mint (Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco) for each year. The interesting part is that this sub-set contains coins of three different compositions:

- The years of 1941 and 1942 are made of the standard bronze mixture of .950 copper and .050 tin and zinc.
- In 1943, to conserve copper for the wartime effort, the cents were made of zinc coated steel. That mixture made them virtually impossible to metal detect in identifiable condition, due to rusting.

- The cents produced in 1944-1946 were **made from reclaimed ammunition cases** from the war. That composition of the 1944-46 mixture was .950 copper and **.050 zinc, minus the tin**. Lacking that small amount of tin gave uncirculated specimens a slightly different color, that only the most discerning eye could pick up.



Oddly enough, the 1943 steel cents are not particularly valuable, as over **493 billion** were produced. Most un-rusted specimens are worth an average of 40 cents, with uncirculated specimens in the \$8-\$10 range. I personally have nine rolls of them. Rusted ones are valueless.

So the bottom line of this article is that if you are lucky enough to detect a 1944-1946 Lincoln penny...

YOU ARE HOLDING A TRUE ARTIFACT OF WORLD WAR II!

THE THIRD-PARTY REVOLUTION OF COIN GRADING

by Susannah K.

Coins have been collected since they were first made, but even into the 1800s there were only a few terms used for grading. And these were inconsistent. Good, Fine, Uncirculated, and Proof were about the only terms used, but there were no standards then in place for grading. You as a dealer could pick your own. Making things even more tricky, a coin's grade was in many instances

based on its age or rarity in relation to other coins the dealer had seen. It was not judged by its condition in relation to the day it was struck. Many collectors to this day are confused by that distinction.

The American Numismatic Association (ANA) stepped in with a few more levels of grades, but it wasn't until 1949 that a 70-pt grading scale was introduced. It assigned a whole number to each coin, with 70 being an absolutely perfect coin (assuming the mint could strike one), and 1 being the cruddiest. The scale was based on the grading of large pennies from 1793-1814, but it kept getting used for other coins as well.

While this helped immensely, it wasn't until 1977 that another upgrade occurred. The Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins attempted to set a standard grading system for all coins. The author,



Abe Kosoff, used the 70-pt grading scale, but he created descriptions and illustrations for each grade. For example, a coin with the grade of 63 was listed as Choice Uncirculated Mint State (known as MS63) and a coin with a grade of 8 was listed as Very Good 8 (VG8). Collectors, though, still squabbled over the grading scale, and to address this problem, the ANA Certification Service (ANACS) started grading coins

itself in 1979, but there were still disagreements about using numbers or words to describe the surface condition (grade) of the coin. Also, collectors found that sending a coin to ANACS meant a wait time sometimes stretching into many months. ANACS also photo graded the coin and issued a certificate, but this was easily counterfeited.

To meet the demand, the PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service) was one of several private companies, including the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), who started to solve these problems using knowledgeable experts. The PCGS soon came to the forefront. PCGS certified and graded a coin, then inserted it into a sonically-sealed, clear hard plastic holder, nicknamed a "slab". The PCGS also guaranteed that as long as the coin was not disturbed in its slab, they would back it on both authenticity and grade with a money-back guarantee.

Today, almost every Proof, Mint State, or rare grade coin must be certified and graded by a third-party service before they enter the market.

COLLECTABLE "SMASHED" PENNIES

Article contributed by Bill Seibel

Grip the handle and turn the crank. Watch the roller turn. Wait for that clink, reach into the little door. Turn over the still-warm, copper-colored oval in your palm. Smile.

It's a pretty penny.

Better known as a smashed penny, or, as collectors call it, an "elongated coin." The 40 or so machines in the St. Louis area will give you your choice of designs: a riverboat from the riverfront, a Clydesdale from Grant's Farm, a Tyrannosaurus rex from the St. Louis Science Center. The St. Louis Zoo has 14

machines on the grounds, and two make special, larger medallions.

It usually only costs 50 cents and your penny to smash — and yes, it's legal, collectors say. Federal law says you can't mutilate coins for fraudulent use, like to create other coins. It's OK to create souvenirs.



And if you do create them, collectors say it's best to use pennies made before 1982. Pennies made after that have a zinc core, and if you press them, they'll show silver-colored zinc streaks.

Elongated pennies probably made their debut in 1893, at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Collecting elongated pennies from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis is a thing: About two dozen different ones were produced there, and fairgoers could go to an umbrella-shaded machine and have an attendant crank out a memento of their visit to the cascades or the festival hall.

The methods haven't changed much over the years: You put your coin into a machine equipped with two steel rollers. The rollers press against each other with such force to smash the coin. One of the rollers is engraved with a die that presses a design onto the coin. You wait for the hum of the machine, the clink into the dish, and then: the pretty penny, the smile and the memory.

Source: St. Louis Post Dispatch

(The MWCM also has a "smashing" machine).

FINDS OF THE MONTH

Oldest Coin



Eric H.: 185x Braided Hair Large Cent
Prize: 1866 Two-Cent Piece

Most Valuable Coin



Dan H.: 1892 Indian Head Penny
Prize: 1889 Seated Dime

Interesting Artifact



Susannah K.: Silver Pendant with Jade Stone
Prize: Two Civil War 3-Ring Bullets

FOM Contest Rules:

1. Fill out an entry form at the beginning of the meeting, and hand it to a member of the FOM committee.
2. Only one entry, per person, is allowed (not one entry per category).
3. **Finds must ONLY be from the previous month** (honor system).
4. 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**.

KNOW THE LAWS

If you have been bitten by the metal detecting bug and are searching for great hunting sites beyond your own backyard, then it's important that you know the laws surrounding your new hobby. Where will you search next? And how do you know that it is legal to dig there? It's crucial that you know the answers to these questions and more before you set out hunting.

Great Sites to Dig

If you don't know where to begin, here's a list of some places you may find some hidden treasures to get you started:

- Beaches and shorelines
- Local parks
- School playgrounds
- Old churches
- Abandoned homesteads
- Private property

Doing some research into your town's history will help you find some promising places. You may find that the sites you're interested in are public ground and think that it's alright to hunt there, but there are some considerations you need to think about before you break out your shovel.

Before You Dig

Before you start hunting and digging holes, you need to be sure you won't be breaking any laws. While metal detecting is a great hobby for a variety of reasons, the downside is that if you don't play it safe, you could find yourself in some trouble.



If you haven't obtained permission to dig the site where you are hunting, you may be looking at harsh fines, misdemeanors, or even felony offenses where you could end up in jail. And you can't plead ignorance, so you have to know the laws about where it's legal to dig and where it isn't.

As you become more experienced detecting and you talk with other detectorists, you will probably hear about people who skirt the laws and play it dangerously to find treasure. Don't fall victim to that type of detecting – even though it may be tempting. The odds really are not in your favor. Give detecting a good name.

Instead, find out as much as you can about metal detecting laws in your area and always get permission to hunt and dig a site before you start swinging your metal detector.

Know the Local Detecting Laws

Your best course of action when nailing down a site to dig is to always inquire before you start. If you are considering private property, the laws are pretty simple – you can usually hunt if you have the permission of the property owner. There are exceptions though, for example if the site is an historical or archaeologically significant site, you cannot dig there.

When the site you are considering is government-owned, you have to talk to officials before you start digging as there isn't always consistency in what is allowed and

what isn't. While you may have gotten permission to hunt one government-owned site, that doesn't always mean that you can legally search another.

The rules for detecting on city properties can also differ from city to city. While one municipality may allow detecting in its local parks, another may not. You may find that some post signs about the legality of detecting in certain areas. That's great if it's spelled out for you, but if it's not, don't dig until you have permission.

It's no different when you want to hunt schoolyards – gaining permission is essential.

You can start with officials at the particular school, but it may be easier to go straight to the superintendent's office for permission. You may be able to obtain the go ahead for all the schools in the district that way.



Fortunately, if you want to detect on beaches, it's typically allowed. Most beaches allow you to search because digging in the sand is what people do there. Just be aware that if the beach you intend to search is part of a state or federal park, you have to get clarification from governing officials.

Search Smart

The main thing to remember is that a little bit of research and obtaining permission is the name of the game in metal detecting. It's sometimes a hassle, but in the end, it's worth it. You may find valuable treasure and you won't get in trouble doing it!

Source: KellyCo Blog

FAVORITE FIND FROM 2017

by *Bill Seibel*

Linus Yale Jr. joined his father's business in 1850. He perfected and patented his father's



pin tumbler cylinder lock, which became the locking king of its time. Yale Jr. and his colleague Henry Towne established the Yale & Towne company in

1868. Pictured is a Cast Bronze Lever-Tumbler Mechanism 1 1/2 inch size, model 833, that was manufactured by the Yale & Towne Mfg. company.

ALWAYS CHECK YOUR TRASH!

by *Ron Prebianca*

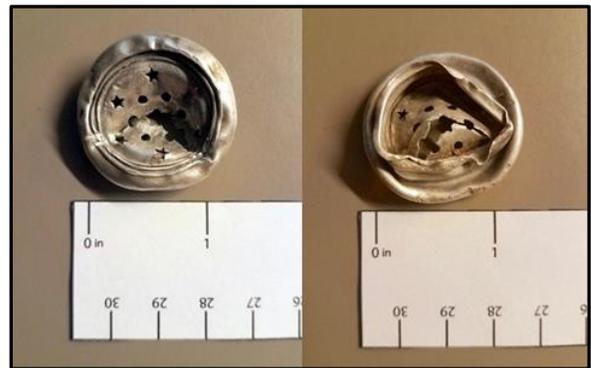
In mid-October of 2017, I made my second metal detecting trip to the farm and vineyards that were started by my wife's grandfather in the early part of the 1900's. The farm is located near Rosati, Missouri, which is about 100 miles from my home in St. Louis County.

My first detecting trip there was in August which turned out to be a big mistake because the ground was so hard I couldn't get my hand shovel into the ground. As I recall, my only find was a zinc penny and I could have left my metal detector at home...it was a surface find. All was not lost as we got to visit with some family members who still live on the farm.

The ground was perfect for digging on my second trip as the shovel went easily into the ground, but was still firm enough to make a great plug. I found a few modern clad and

memorial coins along with a rabies dog tag dated 1997. I also found the normal amount of trash. One of the trash items I found was from a signal coming from under one of the stepping stone rocks that leads to the left of the old wash house. Under the rock was a twisted metal object that looked like aluminum to me. I threw it in with the rest of the trash in my pouch to haul off. I pretty much forgot about it and thought I had thrown it away.

In December I was getting things ready to go out on a hunt and found that the trash object was still in my pouch. I cleaned the dirt off and could see it was the lid of a salt shaker that weighed 7.5 grams.



The pictures above show the top and bottom views of the salt shaker lid after being cleaned. I used my loupe to take a closer look and found that word we all get so excited about...**STERLING!**



The lesson here is it may not be pretty, but...

**ALWAYS
CHECK
YOUR
TRASH!!!**

Gateway MD Club

<https://gatewaymetaldetectingclub.com/>

detectinghistory@yahoo.com



"Can you dig it? WE can!"

CLASSIFIEDS

If you want an ad in the CLASSIFIEDS or HUNT BUDDIES sections, please send them through: detectinghistory@yahoo.com

Club short- and long-sleeved tee shirts and fleece hoodies are available in various sizes. Patches can be purchased for \$2.00. See a club officer for more information.



28" Lesche Ground Shark Shovel for sale, \$40.00 (new cost is \$65.00).

Only used a couple of times.

Email: rcrowell53@gmail.com, or call 314-882-5441.

Brand new item for sale:
Whites Signature Series Pouch, \$30



Contact Bill Seibel at:
columbiabirdworks@gmail.com

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

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

Open to the public

