

# GMDC NEWS

June 2018



“Can you dig it? We can!”

**Club Email:**  
detectinghistory@  
yahoo.com

## Club Officers:

**President**  
Susannah Kriegshauser

**Vice President**  
Mackie Douglas

**Treasurer**  
Rich Bereswill

**Secretary**  
Pat Reece



## President's Corner



By Susannah

Hello fellow dirt fishers!

A big thanks to Russ Bowman for bringing in his microphone and speaker for our June meeting. We were at our wits' end trying to figure out how to allow people in the back rows to be able to hear without the gosh-awful echoes from the unfinished building. The microphone, and everyone being polite and not talking while someone was speaking, made all the difference.

Those of you into black powder things that blow up should like this issue. Have fun reading the article on musket balls and check out the pictures dotted around.



We have some very interesting back-to-back Mystery Hunts coming up. Be sure to check the Calendar section to get more hints...such as they are! (Or that I'll give you!)

Our June Mystery Hunt, which morphed into a regular hunt since we had so many other Mystery Hunts, was a washout--literally! The owners cancelled at the last minute for family reasons, which was just as well since thunderstorms moved in and their road would have been impassable, being gravelly, very steep, and winding. We would have had to have been winched out!

I hope some of you are thinking about what you would like to talk about for a 15 minute presentation. We need one for both October and November. You voted last year that you wanted more of our members to give talks, so here's your chance! At our last meeting I asked if anyone does dowsing, and some said we have members that do. I think that would be a neat topic and we could even go outside to try it if you wanted. Anybody do that? We would love to learn.

We will again have a gold coin raffled off at the BBQ. You can begin buying chances, \$5/ticket, at the August meeting. This year the coin will be worth \$100, twice as much as last year, so get your money ready! We will have last year's winner Rob Willett pull the winning ticket. Good luck!

***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 14: **CW Park Day**

May 01: GMDC meeting

May 05: GMDC hunt  
Hencken Place

Mar 26: Metal Detecting  
Basics Class

Jun 05: GMDC meeting

Jun 09: Cancelled

Jun 23: Metal Detecting  
Basics Class

Jul 03: **NO MEETING**

Jul 07: GMDC hunt  
Francis Park

Jul 28: Metal Detecting  
Basics Class

Aug 07: GMDC meeting

Aug 11: GMDC hunt  
Site TBD

Sep 04: GMDC meeting

Sep 08: GMDC **BBQ**

Sep 15: GMDC hunt

**Mystery Hunt**

Oct 02: GMDC meeting

Oct 06: GMDC hunt

**Mystery Hunt**

Nov 06: GMDC meeting

Nov 10: GMDC hunt  
Site TBD

Dec 04: GMDC holiday  
party

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



## Monthly Meeting Notes

Attendance at the June meeting was an impressive 32, with club members, new member Kathy Sheehan, and 2 guests attending (we hope potential new club members!).

Due to the increased cost of coins for the Finds of the Month contest and attendance prizes, the club voted to allow people to **buy additional tickets for the attendance prizes at \$1.00 per ticket**. Each club member will still receive one free ticket for attending the meeting. **This change resulted in an additional \$32.00 for attendance prizes in the first month!**

The club voted that our CAT team should go no further out than 1 hour from the museum for a lost item call.

The August presentation will be about the history of the penny press from Nina McDonald. She will bring her collection of World's Fair pressed pennies and talk about the history of these machines and the thousands of types available nationwide.

The Volunteer Contest runs from September to September, so if you do any volunteer activities after this September, your entries will go into the new contest.

We are looking for a presentation, demonstration, or other detecting-related topic for the **October** and **November** meetings. Please see a club officer if you'd like to volunteer.

Rich reports that the Civil War Museum fund has received \$122.00 to date in donations from the club. Pennies for Poverty has received \$316.77.

There will not be a July club meeting, but the club hunt for July 7<sup>th</sup> will be held at Francis Park. Meet on the Eichelberger side of the park.

Susannah will send out an email the night before our club meetings or hunts should there be any last-minute changes or cancellations. So be sure to check your email boxes!

**Attendance prizes:** Eric Hanewinkel – 1852 3-Cent Coin, Scott Phillips – 1865 2-Cent Coin, John Quinn – 1868 Shield Nickel.

**50/50:** Jim Gansner – \$44.00.

# IN THE LOUPE...

By *Jim Hammond*

## How Bowling Got Me into Metal Detecting



I have always been interested in finding “buried treasure”, especially when my favorite cousin, Susan, started diving for a company that located shipwrecks, and recovered treasure that went down with the ships. She gave me a Spanish real (piece of eight) coin that she recovered off the coast of Florida from a ship that sank in the 1700s.

I belong to the Engineer’s Club of St. Louis and bowl on a team in their bowling league. One of our team members, John

Westermayer, asked me if I would be interested in going with him to this lady’s house (Susannah’s) for a meeting about metal detecting. It sounded interesting. I had thought about buying a detector

anyway and playing around with it to see what I could find, so I said yes.

At that first meeting Susannah and the rest of the group talked about their different detectors and their interesting finds. It was a fun night, and I met some great people and learned a lot about detecting. I was hooked! I asked my sons-in-law, Rob and Brandon,

to come with me to the next meeting, and they too became interested in metal detecting.

I bought a Fisher F22 and learned more about setting up my detector and detecting techniques from attending Susannah’s classes that she held from time to time. My most interesting find was when I went to England on a metal detecting tour and found a Charles II hammered silver coin from the 1600s. I was

detecting in this 100-acre field and my detector kept ringing up iron, iron, iron, little beep, iron, iron so I decided to dig the



beep to see what it was. I dug up a part of some kind of iron farm implement and I thought, that’s it, but decided to run the detector over the hole again. That’s when I found the hammered silver coin underneath the iron. That was exciting!

My most interesting American find to me is a 1941 silver dime. What surprised me the most is how clean it looked right out of the ground.



To those of you who are thinking about becoming “dirt fishers”, come to one of our club meetings and talk to some of the more experienced detectorists. Hopefully you too will be hooked and soon be able to show off your interesting finds!





The club BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. Reservations are required, and the cost is **\$8 per person**. You can make reservations and pay for the event at the August and September club meetings. Open to members and family.

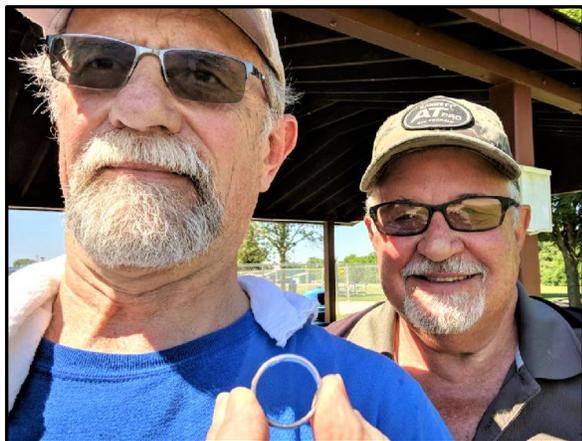
**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO:**

- ★ Grill hot dogs and hamburgers
- ★ Serve as game hosts
- ★ Donate detecting-related prizes

Signup sheets for these activities and for side dishes and desserts for club members to bring will be available at the August and September meetings.

**PERSISTENCE**

Community Assistance Team (CAT) members Lee, Russell, and John looked for several days and hours until they finally



located a wedding ring lost by club member Ron's son while playing volleyball. Just

when they were about to give up, John looked outside of the area where everyone thought it could be and actually found it by sight right before swinging over the area with his coil. Well done, CAT members!

**“NO, HE DOESN'T BITE!”**

Kathy Crowell came to the rescue of a friend's son who lost his graduation ring while having fun on a trampoline...but it came at a small cost! She looked the first evening without any luck, and told the family they needed to move the trampoline so she could look under there. The next day when she went back, Kathy, being the animal lover that she is, tried to calm the neighbor's barking dog and show him that she was a friend. Well, a simple pat turned into a small bite from the dog that “doesn't bite!” Not to be deterred, Kathy pressed on and found the ring to the great appreciation of the owner.



**CLEANING PENCILS**

There's another way to clean crusty coins and relics that doesn't involve any soaking and the guess work of how to do it. Here's an example of a coin that's still not in the best shape, but is significantly improved with a little patience using the four pencils.



A set of Andre's Cleaning Pencils costs @ \$20.00 and includes two hard point “regular” pencils, one brush pencil, and one brass scalpel. Use caution, don't scrape!

## U.S. MUSKET BALLS

U. S. musket balls made up until about the mid-1850's were cast and have the remains of a "sprue mark" somewhere on them. A sprue mark is a small, circular flat spot on the ball where the molten lead was poured into the mold. After the lead hardened, a sprue plate cut off the excess lead and the ball was dropped out of the mold.



By the time of the Civil War, most U.S. balls were being "swaged"; the cold lead being formed by two dies coming together to literally stamp out a round ball with NO sprue mark.



From the Revolutionary War until the end of the Civil War, the favorite smooth bore load was the "Buck & Ball" cartridge

which consisted of a .65 caliber round lead ball and four .33 caliber round balls. At close range, they created a fearsome and devastating load.

Lead balls were purposely made undersize so they would easily slide down the black powder-fouled bore of a .69 caliber musket (for comparison, a dime is approximately .70 caliber in width). When fired, the undersized ball would literally "bounce" down the bore (this is called "balloting"), and often leave the muzzle at a slight angle! From an accuracy point of view, they were terrible.

From the military's point of view in the smooth bore musket era however, each man was firing 3 rounds of "Buck & Ball" per minute. So, if you had a regiment of 1,000 men, that meant that that regiment was firing 5,000 PROJECTILES PER MINUTE AT THE ENEMY FORMATION! In other words, that was some heavy "firepower".

The lack of a sprue mark generally indicates that the ball was probably made by the U.S. Ordnance Department sometime after the early 1850's when the manufacture of balls by swaging them by machine in ordnance arsenals replaced casting balls.

*Source: Chazman of Civil War Talk Forum*

## “PENNIES FOR POVERTY”

Ever wonder who our “Pennies for Poverty” jar is helping? Heifer USA initiated their *Seeds of Change* program to grow American farming jobs, improve health and help end American poverty in stricken farming communities. Keeping small farmers close to their land and initiating more business opportunities is the goal.



Through *Seeds of Change*, American farmers will get the agricultural materials, equipment, and training in sustainable business development, including agro-tourism, organic food markets, agriculture production and distribution processes they need to grow and market healthy food to boost local economies.

The charity is helping reinvigorate a network of small- and medium-scale American farmers and helping them to stay on their land, rather than selling out to huge, corporate agro-businesses.

We as detectorists enjoy hunting these small farmers' lands, so it's nice to be able to help them in return. Please remember our Pennies for Poverty jar when you are dumping out your clad finds at the end of the day.

# FINDS OF THE MONTH

## Oldest Coin

*No entry for June*

## Most Valuable Coin



**John Q.: 1961 Washington Quarter**

*Prize: 1857 3-cent silver trime*

## Interesting Artifact



**Ron P.: 10k White Gold Ring**

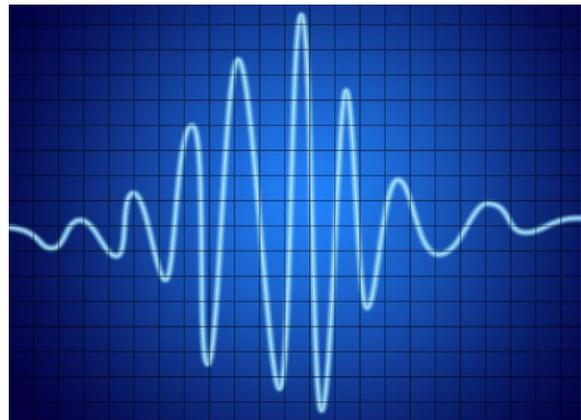
*Prize: 1 oz. silver round*

## **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.

## FREQUENCY EXPLAINED



A detector's operating frequency reflects the **number of times per second that its coil pulses out a search field**. It's measured in kilohertz (kHz), with 1 kHz equal to 1,000 transmissions of the magnetic field per second.

Frequency is not something you really need to worry about other than knowing that, in general, lower-frequency detectors are better at discriminating between trash and treasure, while higher-frequency metal detectors are better at gold prospecting.

## Gateway MD Club

<https://gatewaymetaldetectingclub.com/>

[detectinghistory@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:detectinghistory@yahoo.com)

**Club short- and long-sleeved tee shirts and fleece hoodies are available in various sizes. \$15 tee, \$20 long sleeve, \$25 hoodie. See a club officer for more information.**



## 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**

