

AMERICAN METAL DETECTING ASSOCIATION (AMDA)

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News of the
"CITIZEN COLLECTOR"

August 2009

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ALERTS:

1. - IT'S A GO FOR LAUGHLIN 2009!!!!

Yes, we now have approval and a hunt flyer (attached) for those interested in attending six hunts that AMDA will sponsor in conjunction with the Colorado River Treasure Seekers (CRTS) over the weekend of October 23, 24, and 25, 2009, at our usual hunt field site, located at the corner of Woodbury and Thomas Edison Drives, in Laughlin, NV. Much of the information you need is contained in the hunt flyer however, feel free at any time to call either Bernard, our Huntmaster, at his new cell number, or myself, at my new email address, both noted above. Also, my old email address of cgarrettwc@aol.com can still be accessed, if you forget to change to the new one in your address book. Bernard has now officially retired so communication with him should be easier. I will be on vacation from August 23rd to September 16, 2009 however my family can always take your message. If you have a question as to whether or not your payment for hunt fees was received, please contact Bernard, who duties are to collect and deposit them. My responsibility is to make up the badges and schedules for each hunt, compile all the financial reports, as well as prepare the Agenda to be discussed at our required Annual Membership Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 12:30 PM on the hunt field. One very important reminder -- Sunday's AMDA Big Money Hunt will be held at 9:00 AM to allow more time for those hunters who have to meet early airline reservations home. Also, that weekend, we may be affected by a TIME CHANGE due to Day-light Savings, however, do like I do, and listen to the local TV/Radio news station in Laughlin as to whether the change takes place the weekend of our hunts? It would only affect the Sunday's hunt!

2. - DFG NEWS RELEASE, dated August 6, 2009
Moratorium on Instream Suction Dredge Mining, Effective Immediately

All California instream suction dredge mining has been suspended following the Governor's signature on a new state law. The ban will be in effect until the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) completes a court-ordered environmental review of its permitting program, expected in late summer 2011.

SB 670 (Wiggins), signed today by Gov. Schwarzenegger, prohibits the use of vacuum or other suction dredging equipment for instream mining in any California river, stream or lake. Consistent with the moratorium, DFG has ceased issuing suction dredge permits, and all previously issued state permits are now invalid.

The moratorium on instream suction dredge mining took effect immediately as an urgency measure, prohibiting the use of vacuum or other suction dredging equipment for instream mining in reliance on any permit previously issued by DFG.

The moratorium does not apply to suction dredging operations performed for the regular maintenance of energy or water supply management infrastructure, flood control, or navigational purposes.

A violation of the moratorium on instream suction dredge mining is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail.

DFG is also currently subject to a court order prohibiting the issuance of suction dredge permits. (Leon Hillman of al. v. California Dept of Fish and Game, Super Ct. Alameda County, Case No. RG09-43444). The order, which prohibits DFG from expending any General Fund money, even indirectly, to issue suction dredge permits, will remain in effect as long as the Hillman lawsuit is pending or until further order of the court.

Additional information can be found at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/specialpermits/suctiondredge or by contacting Kirsten Macintyre, DFG Communications Manager, at (916) 322-8911.

An email from Keith Wills (kwills@etex.net) this morning informed us that a reply from Jerry Hobbs, attorney for Public Lands for the People (PPL) (jerhobbs2@aol.com) dated August 08, 2009, reported that “they are filing an Injunction in Federal court to put a stay on the state from enforcing SB 670 but it will take a couple of weeks to file and we are Appealing the Hillman Karuk Injunction in state court.” If you wish to donate funds to help PLP finance their lawsuit, you should contact PLP staff and supporters at email: bhwtherby@aol.com (818-957-1455), goldcado1@aol.com, (805-485-7513) or Scott editor@plp1.org I hope you will do your part as well to “bring back our rights under the mining laws and the Constitution”, according to the Editor of PLP!

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THE RECENT LOSS OF TWO GREAT HOBBYISTS

AMDA has lost another one of its original board members – John Roggero, who passed away on January 13, 2009. A “Celebration of Life” for John was held January 25th, in El Dorado Hills, CA. According to his brother Len, John talked treasure hunting till the end. The funeral notice asked that mourners give John a wonderful celebration as he was affectionately noted as “The Life of the Party”. As a former member of the Sacramento Valley Detector Buffs (SVDB), I can vouch for that, especially at our annual Christmas club meetings. Because John was the inspiration behind “Laughlin” for our annual hunt site, we dedicate this newsletter to him!!! Thanks John – we will always be grateful for your friendship, hard work, great input, and dedication to our hobby.

Apparently, the same day, Chip Privett, a Minelab dealer from Reno, Nevada also passed away suddenly from an apparent heart attack. A friend of Chip’s said “he was a good guy

who had a big heart and who wanted the best for everyone.” Both Bernard and I would attest to that, as we knew Chip since we both became involved with the hobby back in 1988 and at the booths he held at the GPAA gold shows. Another great guy we will sadly miss, however, Bernard’s comment to me when he informed me of Chip’s passing, that he could imagine “Chip and John sitting in Heaven telling metal detecting stories”. I agree!

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LAUGHLIN 2008!

Another great weekend was held in Laughlin, NV, October 24, 25, and 26th, 2008. We saw a few less hunters (probably due to the high gas prices and shrinking economy) – from a low of 59 to a high of 72, over the course of six hunts. We had several winners however Paul Mackin of Bullhead City, AZ won the Grand Prize of \$500.00! We thank those sponsors of this event – Jim Straight, for donating a wonderful collection of books, won by Robert Lichtenberg, of Odgen, UT and Western & Eastern Publications for a year’s subscription won by: James Rainey, Gaine Hakoda, and John Tiffie. During the AMDA meeting, Carolyn announced that at the end of September 30, 2008, AMDA’s net worth was: \$2,680.30. Thanks also go to Karen Overman who helps me take notes of the meeting, assists writing down names of hunt winners and signing up new hunters who wish to compete at the last minute. She is also assisted by Bonnie Lane and without either gal doing the chores they volunteer for this writer would have her “hands fuller than usual”. Thanks gals for your continuing support. Bernard also wants to thank members of the CRTS club who assist him in planting the coins and marshalling the field over three busy days. Without them, the tasks would be much harder! Putting on hunts does take a lot of volunteers, but I can speak for many that we enjoy doing so!

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COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD – A MUST READ!

Be sure to read the second page of the hunt flyer for comments written by our Huntmaster, on his challenge to obtain approval for Laughlin 2009 hunts! Recently, I visited the Eureka Treasure Hunters club annual event called “Rush to the Rockies 2009”, held 13 miles north of Limon, CO or about 55 miles north of me. I spoke to their President Gary Keim and learned that this year’s hunt was held on private land rather than in their usual site at Black Hawk/Central City, CO, because the State of Colorado sent him a 15-page questionnaire asking for the types of events hosted by the club. Being a long questionnaire, it certainly asked other pertinent questions about their club activities, which brings to mind, why Bernard had to respond to a 5-page questionnaire before we could have approval holding Laughlin 2009. The reasons why we believe are simple – the states are seeking more revenue in this rotten economy! Therefore, Bernard will determine the next step that AMDA needs to take so we can hold more hunts in the future and yet be in compliance and not butt heads with current state laws where we hold these hunts. The Eureka organization (www.eurekathc.com) does an outstanding job with its members and their hunts are bigger and larger than ours, yet the hobby as a whole could be seriously affected. We have been hearing that Change was coming and apparently we are now feeling the heat! We may not agree with the changes, however, we can certainly voice our opposition as small business owners, competing with the much bigger ones! We will keep you informed as what changes we will be making at our next Annual meeting. Hopefully our club will not suffer as much as other groups in our hobby are enduring. As a reminder too -- we in AMDA believe that nothing is set in stone. We want to put on quality hunts. We need our members’ input to keep providing quality service. Please contact us with your thoughts on this newsletter and its contents. Thanks, AMDA’s staff.

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REMAINING GPAA GOLD SHOWS FOR 2009!

Fall shows are in Concord, NC, October 17 & 18th at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center with the last show in Carlisle, PA, October 24 and 25, 2009, in the Carlisle Expo Center. For more information concerning these two shows, you may go to the GPAA's website at: www.goldprospectors.org or call them at 1-800-551-9707.

Information as to dates and locations for the upcoming 2010 Gold Shows have not received my desk as yet, however, thanks to Mike Smith, Southwestern Chapter FMDAC President, one show's date will be February 13 & 14, in Phoenix, Arizona. Rumors we have heard indicate that rather being in Primm, NV next Spring, the GPAA will be in Las Vegas, NV. If so, we believe we will contact Nancy DeFalco for the possibility of holding our hunts there that weekend, providing a suitable hunt field can be found. With the economy depressed as it is hotel room rates are down, which would be good news for those who would want to join us.

UPCOMING HUNTS OR CANCELED HUNTS

Mike Smith, Southwestern Chapter FMDAC President, (promack@quik.com), has invited AMDA for a weekend of co-sponsored hunts, probably the first weekend in February 2009. The proposed hunts will be held at the Goldfield Ghost Town (www.goldfieldghosttown.com) in a desert environment. Since this idea is only in the planning stage, more information will be forthcoming, if AMDA meets all requirements. Bernard and Mike have discussed months ago to have a joint hunt weekend to benefit members from both groups.

We regretted announcing March 2, 2009, that due to unsatisfactory field conditions and higher insurance premium rates, we would not be holding hunts in conjunction with the GPAA at the Primm 2009 Gold Show, held April 25 & 26, 2009. We also do not in the future expect to be back at Primm, however, we will do our best to find new suitable hunt sites as many of our supporters live in the desert southwest and we enjoy their company!

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REPAIRS ON THE BIGFOOT, HOT SHOT COILS, ETC.

Bill Lahr has set up an email address for repairs on the Bigfoot, Hot Shot, etc. If anyone you know needs service on one of those coils, tell them to email Bill at coilrepair@gmail.com. For most coils, it will cost \$40.00 plus shipping. Thanks to Terry Crenshaw for this tip!

CLEANING SOLUTIONS FOR ROCK TUMBLERS

Written by Barry Wainwright with information provided by Chris at tesorohunter@yahoo.com.

“It’s quite evident that many of you use rock tumblers to clean coins. There also seems to be much confusion & controversy on what solution to use for cleaning either clad or copper coins.

Well, fear & question no more. I will clarify & rectify & solidify the problem once & for all.

When first trying a rock tumbler, I experimented to determine the best cleaning solutions and the time required to clean coins. For a good cleaning solution, I wanted one that would adequately clean coins with substances reasonably available around most homes. The first solution I developed was for copper coins, which I then used to clean clad coins. It cleaned away corrosion all right, but left the coins a copper color. A copper colored nickel, dime or quarter looks a bit strange. Further experimentation produced the following techniques, which have provided good results.

First, separate cents or other copper coins from your nickels and clad coins.

To clean copper coins, use the following:

¼ cup of white vinegar, ½ cup of water, 2 tablespoons of sodium salt, ½ cup of pea-size or smaller gravel. Tumble an approximate quantity of cents (depending on the capacity of your tumbler) in this mixture. About four hours will do the job. The copper coins are then rinsed in plain water. You will find that they are completely acceptable. The gravel can be saved for future use.

To clean nickels and clad coins, you will need a different solution: ½ cup of water, 1 tablespoon of automatic dish water detergent, 1 tablespoon household ammonia, ½ cup of pea-size or smaller gravel. Add the coins and tumble for 24 hours. When rinsed in plain water, your nickels and clad coins will be gray in color, but most corrosion will be gone. Your coins will be equal to most in circulation and spendable.

Always arrange clean coins on an old newspaper or cardboard to air dry. To avoid discoloring, wet coins should not overlap each other. Whew! So there you have it. Remember old vintage coins should not be cleaned in this fashion or you greatly risk degrading them substantially and badly, thus making them worthless or less valuable or collectible coins. Leave the cleaning up to the experts when it comes to the more valuable & collectible coins. Good luck & here's to successful tumbling. “

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ALITTLE HUMOR!!!!

Detector Owners of America

If metal detectors leave holes in our parks, then ...

- pencils miss spel words
- cars make people drive drunk
- spoons made Rosie O'Donnell fat
- and guns kill people

From the metal detector owners of America, supplied by Keith Wills of WATTS.ORG

DID YOU KNOW???

METAL DETECTING: “The greatest gift of all is where the past becomes your present!””

Quote courtesy of the “the turner treasure team” website.

Thanks for listening and allowing us to express our views. Be sure that I also have your current email address so the "*Citizen Collector*" newsletter, future hunt flyers, and important Alerts can be quickly sent electronically. Since some of you do not own computers, use them, or use the same software that I do, I will continue to send out hard copies and/or post the important news on our web site at: www.AMDAONLINE.NET. Because this has been a very hectic year since I wrote the last newsletter in 2008, I apologize, but due to a family member's health crisis and personal changes in Bernard's life, the news has not been released as timely as we would want it too. Back in March I began working with our webmaster to re-write and post newer information to our website, however, I have had to put that off for awhile. Hopefully, after my vacation I will return refreshed and take on the task again. There are several links I wish to add for your information and others who visit the web site. A few of them are: Treasure Hunter Classifieds or www.TreasureHunterClassifieds.com; www.wwats.org; <http://czechdetectingtours.com/faq>; Mount Diablo's Metal Detecting Club or www.mdmdctreasurehunting.com; www.sacramentovalleydetectingbuffs.com; Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club or www.quartzsitemetaldetectingclub.com; Treasure Hunting America or <http://www.justiceent.com/tha.htm>.

One last note: Some times information comes to me that I do not take the time to attest too, and find out later it is incorrect. If I am corrected, I will let you know. Sometimes, the email will say verified by Snopes at www.snopes.com. Interestingly enough, some readers have alerted me who is behind Snopes.com? Only recently did Wikipedia get to the bottom of it – a mom and pop operation that began as a hobby. Therefore when in doubt, go to: <http://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Snopes.com> or another site at www.truthorfiction.com for a double check. Thanks to Larry Armstrong and Mike Martin for this bit of information as a valuable resource.

Thanks for listening and bearing with us --

See you in Laughlin!

Carolyn, Bernard, Larry and Cory