



# F.M.D.A.C.

The FEDERATION of METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC. Est. 1984

## **SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER** **Volume 26, Issue 2** **APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2009**

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### **Hello from the President's Desk,**

We have been kept quite busy this quarter with all the issues across the nation. We made some progress with the issue in New York City on their parks. They have backed off from no metal detecting to allowing two days a week. We still do not think this good enough so we are asking you to continue the emailing campaign. We are awaiting a report from the Lobbyist on the issue in Wisconsin and should have the report back by the next issue. We are operating a raffle to help with the funds to pay for this Lobbyist. The raffle will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July at Treasure Week in PA. The bill in Kentucky went down in defeat again. This is the third year in a row that they (Kentucky Heritage Council) have tried to get this passed. On the issue in Louisville, KY, it will be up to the voters to replace the current Council Members, as the present ones will not budge. In CA, we have been working with several groups (PLP, GPAA and New 49'ers) to stop legislation that would ban dredging for gold. Are there any more problems out there that we should be working on? Contact us if you have one but be sure to have some contact information of the agency that you have a problem with. We have a new spot on the "Message Board" for you to post your problem.

If you have an email address and are not receiving these alerts from me, please email me (address is above) with it so you can be involved. Numbers do count when we contact these agencies!

This last quarter we have added a couple more clubs to the Chapter and unfortunately a few of our clubs have not renewed (at least not yet) for this year. If you or your club has not renewed for 2009, this will be your last newsletter.

Hope to see you in Olathe, Kansas for the National Convention in October! We have a lot of activities planned and some great speakers. Also take note that the Chapters zip code has changed beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Mike Smith  
Southwestern Chapter President  
[www.fmdac.org](http://www.fmdac.org)

## Let's Go Metal Detecting! A Good Hobby for Bad Times by Vince Migliore

In these tough economic times, it's hard to justify spending money on expensive sporting equipment. But, what if you could develop a hobby where you actually enriched yourself? Consider metal detecting. It's a fun outdoor activity that helps you find all sorts of coins, jewelry, historic relics, and even gold nuggets! The sport of metal detecting has come a long way in the last few years. Modern detectors now have a feature called discrimination, which tells you if the object is a dime, a quarter, or just a piece of junk. That saves a lot of time digging, and steers you towards the more valuable targets. With this hobby, you can go to just about any park, beach, or ball field and come home with a pocket full of coins and valuable trinkets. Instant wealth, though, is not the goal of this sport. Some of the real benefits of metal detecting are as follows:

**Science.** You learn a lot about science. You learn about search coils and the practical application of electromagnetism. How does the detector know if you've got a silver dime or a tin bottle cap? How deep can the search coil penetrate the ground? You learn about geology and the kinds of rocks where gold is found. (Clue: quartz.) The mineral makeup of the soil in your area becomes a curiosity for you. In getting out into the field, you are exposed to all kinds of biological systems – small animals, birds, insects, and plants. By estimating the age of a tree you can judge how old a search site is. You become attuned to the weather and the wind.

**Physical Fitness.** The doctor tells you to get more exercise, or do 100 deep-knee bends. No way, Jose! With metal detecting, however, you'll be trekking for miles, squatting down, swinging the machine, digging, huffing and puffing, and enjoying every minute of it. You'll get a work-out without even noticing it, because you are having so much fun. This sport is at the opposite end of the spectrum from sitting on the couch watching television.

**Nature.** With metal detecting, you find yourself wandering over hill and dale, enjoying the fresh air and the sights of nature. You go to parks and see all kinds of wildlife. If you get into nugget hunting, you find yourself scrambling over rocks along remote stretches of the American River, or up in Yuba county. Oftentimes, you will stop and just look at the birds, or the wind in the trees. You know, it can be a real pleasure.

**People.** Contrary to the image of a lone ranger on an isolated beach, the typical metal detector hobbyist is quite social. Metal detecting clubs and hunting partners make this a group sport. You have to ask permission to search on private land, so interaction with land owners and park rangers is a must. Besides, you soon find yourself showing curious folks in the park how it works, or giving a demonstration to the grand-kids.

**History.** Back in 1964, the US Mint stopped making silver dimes and quarters. The Holy Grail for metal detecting, then, is to find the old silver coins. To accomplish this, you have to know your history. What schools and parks were around back then? Where are the oldest streets and neighborhoods? Gold was found in our area back in 1849. Where can I get in on some of *that* action? As you begin finding old toys, antique household items, and historic relics, you develop an even deeper interest in the history of your town. Finding square nails, old metal buttons, and bullet shell casings becomes fascinating for their historic significance.

**Treasure.** Ultimately, the biggest pleasure of metal detecting is finding coins, tokens, toys, jewelry, and valuable minerals. You can throw the coins into a loose-change jar, take up coin collecting, or sell what you find on the Internet. The biggest kick comes from stashing all the jewelry and baubles you find into your personal pirates' treasure chest. Sometimes, you might even have the pleasure of returning a lost wedding ring to a distraught owner.

Metal detecting is fun. It gets you out and moving and engaged in activities. Realistically, you cannot expect to strike it rich with that elusive rare treasure. But, there is something rewarding about finding things for free. It's like pulling the handle of a slot machine. That beep in the headphones means you have found something. Will it be junk or a jackpot?

## Moving On Up! by Jan Sarras

I started metal detecting in September of 2008 with a brand new brand X detector. I soon joined a MD Club (Silver State) and was amazed at some of the finds the other members were making. I quickly upgraded to a first rate White's "MXT", and as I did, my finds, both coinage and jewelry, shot through the roof. I have doubled my finds in every denomination of coins and more than tripled the jewelry finds.

The MXT really opened my MD searches to more enjoyment and less useless digging coupled with more and better finds. The VDI readouts are spot on and the confidence bars seems to help a lot in my interpretation as to "What it is" before digging. The pinpointing is phenomenal on this machine and the depths of the targets are displayed accurately. If I could afford a new machine I would own a pair of MXTs; the new one would be for my "Bride". The learning curve is NOT steep and the machine is very "tweakable" to suit your needs and style of detecting. Also there is a large array of coil options and the MXT is very capable of finding the yellow stuff we all love to find; who doesn't like GOLD?

For now I am using the very capable stock 9.5 coil and in the trashy areas I use the White's small Eclipse 6" DD which is also great in tight areas such as when prospecting in the tailing piles and heavily vegetated regions.

In just 4 months of using this machine I have found nearly \$300.00 in coins and exactly 30 rings. I have also found 8 bracelets (3 are 92.5 Silver) and one is 12K Black Hills Gold. I had an incredible week starting last Tuesday, the 24th of February. I found a ring every day straight through to Saturday, the 28th of February. One is a 14K White Gold band, another is a Yellow Gold band along with two 92.5 Silvers, and a "Vintage" Copper band. In January of 09, I totaled 8 rings and this month 9 were found, bringing this year's total to 17. Without a doubt I can honestly say I could not have done this well with ANY machine other than the MXT; what great joy it has brought me while detecting. I swing in the Relic mode 100% of the time in the "Alternate Search Mode" as I now feel quite confident in the proper usage of the many facets the MXT offers for folks really wanting to get the most out of their machines! Thank you White's for a great detector!

## Southwestern Chapter Clubs & Independent Members Report

**Arizona Treasures Unlimited** This club had some great speakers this quarter. Mike and Bill Williams spoke about their search using the Peralta Stone maps. Ron Puechner gave a talk about collecting political memorabilia.

**Superstition West Treasure Hunters** This club held the annual hunt on March 22nd and was attended by many of its members. Since the club is made up of mostly winter visitors, there will be no meetings through the summer months, next meeting September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Sacramento Valley Detecting Buffs** Held their annual hunt in April with Candy Workman winning the grand prize. Several members attended the last "Great Southern Beach Shootout" in Daytona, FL.

**Coinshooters of San Diego** Started a new column called "Recovered & Returned" in their monthly newsletter recognizing their members that find items and returned them to their owners. I think this is a great idea! In April, several of their members were involved with the San Diego Police looking for a murder weapon from a 6 year old "cold case". No luck but we commend them for their efforts!

**Siskiyou County Relic & Recovery** Member Jim Wolff will work with the USFS on a "Passport in Time" project at the Fort Reading site in mid June. Hope they find some great items of history!

**Gold Coast Treasure Hunters** They held the 6th annual "Jim Lee Beach Hunt" on the Saturday following their April meeting. All had fun and many prizes were given out. Thanks to Jerry's Tab and Bottle Cap Contest the beach was a lot cleaner at the end of the day. The club members all thanked Jim for all his work. They now have a website <http://www.gctreasurehunters.com/>

**Albuquerque Metal Detecting** Voted to name all their special hunts in 2009 to "Chuck Hunts". Chuck Teyssier, a member since 1994, passed away in March of this year. Chuck held their title of "Hunter of the Year" for 3 straight years in the mid 90's. The club is getting ready for their annual hunt in September.

**West Coast Prospectors & Treasure Hunters** This club held its annual Rendezvous hunt in April and it appears to of been a great success. They are electing new officers in June so I will not know the results until July.

**Mid-Western Artifact Society** Don Vickers, Chapter VP, was able to return an inscribed 1827 Large Cent to the great, great, granddaughter of E.B. Thomas. It took a lot of research to track this one down. Great Job Don!

**Austin Metal Detecting Club** This club had a booth at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Treasure Show which was well received. They had a speaker on Remote Viewing/Dowsing that was greatly enjoyed by the members.

**East Texas Treasure Hunters** Will be host to the Texas Council Convention next year in March. Club member and Former FMDAC Chapter President, Terry Smith, is an Director of the TCTC Board.

**Flatland Metal Detecting Club** Find of the Month Winners for April-Dan Dugas an 1891 Seated Liberty Dime /May- Gary Chrysler an 1878 CC Seated Liberty Quarter /June- Robert Nyquist a 1936D Mercury Dime. This club has set up a group to respond to local requests to find rings and other lost items. Currently they have returned two gold wedding rings and a family heirloom Mason gold ring to the owners.

**White Mountain Club of GPAA** This is a new club to the FMDAC. They hold their meetings in Show Low, AZ. They are mainly a prospecting club but enjoy using their detectors to find things.

**Independent Members** Rick Schramm, Canyon Lake, CA, was in a Press-Enterprise (Riverside, CA) article recently about metal detecting. Rick said among his favorite finds are an 1863 Civil War Token and a 32 diamond tennis bracelet. Recently Rick helped return a class ring that had been lost for 20 years. In his 30 years of detecting, Rick has aided the police and individuals find many missing items. We salute you Rick!

## **FMDAC FORUM**

Please start posting questions, comments and finds on the forum. Lets us make this the most used forum on the internet. Please sign in and start using this as a way to communicate to the metal detecting community! Go to [www.mymdforum.com/forum/index.php](http://www.mymdforum.com/forum/index.php)

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **July 11<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> – Treasure Week – New Stanton, PA**

This year Treasure Week moved further east to Pennsylvania. It will be held at the Fox Den Acres Campground. The FMDAC will sponsor hunts on the 15<sup>th</sup> at this event. Contact Jill McFeeders (330) 364-1608 for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (cont)

### July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Southern Indiana Treasure Fest – Vallonia, IN

This is a new week long event being held at the Starve Hollow Lake campgrounds. The FMDAC Central Chapter will be sponsoring hunts on the 29<sup>th</sup> at this event. Contact Chad Beesley (812) 966-2137 or Ron David (Central Chapter President) (765) 643-1121 for more information.

### October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – FMDAC National Convention – Kansas City/Olathe, KS

2009 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FMDAC and we hope to put together a great convention and treasure expo with hunts. Our Chapter and the local club, Mid-Western Artifact Society, will be the hosts of this convention. There will be raffles for prizes throughout the weekend. There will be seminars on Saturday on different subjects throughout the day and a banquet Saturday night with a guest speaker. Dealers and Manufacturer's will have the latest products for sale. The flyers and forms are on the website to download for more information. If you do not have the internet, call Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608 and she can mail you a convention packet.

## FMDAC - SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER 2nd QTR (APR/MAY/JUNE) 2009

1<sup>st</sup> National Bank - Buffalo, Wyoming

Balance as of 3/31/09	\$612.29
<b>Credits:</b>	
4/6 - Hunt raffle, 2 FMDAC hats, 3&4Qtr Allowance	150.00
6/23 - 5 FMDAC hats	<u>60.00</u>
Total Credits	210.00
Subtotal	822.29
<b>Debits:</b>	
Check #1043, 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr Newsletter Postage, Printing, Supplies	99.78
Check #1044, FMDAC - Hats/Shirts	<u>246.00</u>
Total Debits	345.78
Balance as of June 30, 2009	<b>\$ 476.51</b>
Submitted by: Judy Stobbe - Chapter Treasurer	

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE CODE OF ETHICS AND ENJOY THE HOBBY!**

## **FMDAC'S CODE OF ETHICS**

I WILL ALWAYS CHECK FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND LOCAL LAWS BEFORE SEARCHING. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO "KNOW THE LAW".

I WILL RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WILL NOT ENTER PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE OWNER'S PERMISSION, WHERE POSSIBLE SUCH PERMISSION WILL BE IN WRITING.

I WILL TAKE CARE TO REFILL ALL HOLES AND TRY NOT TO LEAVE ANY DAMAGE.

I WILL REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY AND ALL TRASH AND LITTER THAT I FIND.

I WILL APPRECIATE AND PROTECT OUR INHERITANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I WILL, AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE HOBBY, USE THOUGHTFULNESS, CONSIDERATION AND COURTESY AT ALL TIMES.

I WILL WORK TO HELP BRING UNITY TO OUR HOBBY BY WORKING WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OF ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA THAT MAY HAVE PROBLEMS THAT WILL LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PEACEFULLY PURSUE THE HOBBY.

I WILL LEAVE GATES AS FOUND.

I WILL BUILD FIRES IN DESIGNATED SAFE PLACES ONLY.

I WILL REPORT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ENTER AND OR REMOVE ARTIFACTS FROM FEDERAL PARKS OR STATE PRESERVES.

**FMDAC SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER  
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