

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

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FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

[Website](#)
[FaceBook](#)

[How To Join](#)
[Hunts & Events](#)
[Member Clubs](#)
[Organization](#)
[State Park Regulations](#)
[Target Recovery Methods](#)

President: **Mark Schuessler**

Vice President: **Ed Burke**

Treasurer: **Sue Race**

Secretary: **Debbie Buxton**

Legislative Officer: **Position Open**

Membership Chair: **Scott Manahan**

Website Maintenance: **Trinna Pitts**

North Region: **Position Open**

Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Canada

Central Region: **Don Hayes**

Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc. (FMDAC) was organized in 1984 as a legislative and educational organization and incorporated, as a non-profit, non-commercial, non-partisan organization.

The Mission: The FMDAC is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection for the hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting.

The Purpose: To unite, promote and encourage the establishment of metal detecting clubs. To preserve the sport / hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting. To make available to FMDAC clubs and Independent members information pertaining to the hobby and to keep members informed as to active legislation.

The Goal: is to Educate and inform the public as to the merits of recreational metal detecting.

What is a News Gram? The news gram provides a brief look into news events for the past month. The intent of the news gram is to provide you, the FMDAC reader, with news clips on what took place last month in the hobby. The News Gram is configured like a webpage and must be read online for the article links to work.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President's Message

Hello Everyone.

The New Year is finally here. We can kiss 2020 good riddance. We probably should not actually kiss it as depending on where you are that may get you a ticket or arrested! I heard a good one that I want to pass on if you did not hear them. If you think 2020 was bad then wait until it turns 21 and starts drinking! I am really glad that is only a joke. Don't how much more of this the country and families and businesses can take.

If you are in a state that allows the freedoms that we all (should) enjoy and the businesses are all open then you are lucky. Or actually you are just enjoying what this country represents. I myself reside in one that seems to more closely resemble the place this virus came from. Many businesses have closed their doors and many others are hurting bad. The sad part is that there is zero difference in the spread of the virus. In fact the "open" states are doing much better and their economies are not being destroyed.

If you have contracted the virus then I hope you made it through OK. Of the dozens I know or know of that have had it, many would not have known it other than getting tested. Zero symptoms. Another big chunk had just minor symptoms. A small percentage had flu like results to varying degrees. (That's where I fall in.) Now I was the recipient of smell loss. Complete and total. Taste was pretty much there but no smeller. If this happens to you then here's a little advice. DO NOT eat any leftovers from the fridge without having someone else check them. They will smell fine to you but could be a long way past their shelf life! The symptom may hang on for while even after you are back in the saddle so heed this warning. Not trying to make light of the virus as there are many who have had serious illness and even death. Our hearts and prayers go out to anyone and their families who have suffered in that manner.

With the winter upon many of us, just struck here on Christmas day, it is time to start cleaning, researching and displaying finds and cleaning and repairing equipment. And the most important part is researching for some new hunt sites. Now as I was not able to get out much this past year I have a few home sites that are waiting for me. One in particular came just before the virus stuff hit and another was located and permission gained through a relative recently.

There are also other paths to go down with hunt sites. The historical path! What I mean is look at some events that took place in your area and consider teaming up with the historical society to search them. Turn over the finds to them for display. You could even help make up displays for them. They will be able to help you gain permission and you will have a display at their museum with your name on it. Not only will that make YOU a part of history but it's great publicity for the hobby. If you dig into the local history you may find a lot of small events/happenings that you could assist with saving an artifact or two for the historical record. These may be events that few even know of. I have several on my mind for future endeavors; a WW2 plane crash, a militia training site in a small town and a feud between 2 small (former) communities that erupted in a battle. There are opportunities out there if you look.

South Region: **Art Di Filippo**
California, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida

I want to thank outgoing secretary Frank Colletti for his service to the FMDAC. Frank was secretary for a long time. As we start the new year hopefully we can look forward to getting back to normal activities. Soon as we can we will get the target recovery course back on track. Along with that is a tentative northern chapter hunt. Tried it in 2020 but it got cancelled. Another reminder that memberships are now up for renewal. Send your dues to our treasurer Sue Race. All the info is available on the website at FMDAC.org.

A very Happy New Year to everyone!!
Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

Don Hayes, FMDAC Central Region Director Message

**Hello Everyone.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

This time of year, all our thoughts turn to finding new permissions to hunt. One fun part of that is researching to find old home sites and towns that no longer exist. This has gotten much easier with the amount of information on the internet. The problem is in finding the best apps and websites to help you in your research. So, while we have some nasty weather, I am asking you to help everyone out by telling us about your favorite app or website for finding old maps or property owners to help us all with new hunt sites. If you have been hunting for 40 years or are new to the hobby it is always great to get some help from your fellow detectorist. If you have a favorite way of finding new hunt sites please post it on the FMDAC Facebook page to share your knowledge with the rest of us.

Keep swinging and good luck.
Don Hayes Central Region Director, FMDAC

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- A grandfather's WWII air mission inspires Niskayuna man. [Article Link](#)
- Tim started tinkering with a metal detector two years ago, now he specialises in finding 'lost treasures'. [Article Link](#)
- Dog tag, other items of Danville World War II soldier found in Germany. [Article Link](#)
- Lost A Precious Keepsake On The Beach? These Guys Will Find It. [Article Link](#)
- A concentration camp in Germany is begging treasure hunters to stay away after a documentary claimed Nazi gold was buried there. [Article Link](#)
- Two years later, remains found by metal hunter at Murrells Inlet park identified. [Article Link](#)
- Defense agency develops mine detector capable of detecting N. Korean wooden-box land mine. [Article Link](#)
- Showing their metal: Long Island's 'treasure' hunters come out in the cold. [Article Link](#)
- 'This is God': Mysterious gold, jewelry washes up on Venezuelan beach. [Article Link](#)
- Showing their metal: Long Island's 'treasure' hunters come out in the cold. [Article Link](#)
- Should we risk our son's social status by gifting him a metal detector? [Article Link](#)
- Go on a metal-detecting excursion. [Article Link](#)
- Newquay nurse's plea for help to find her late dad's wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Siouland Stories: Digging into the life of a modern-day treasure hunter. [Article Link](#)
- German museum to restore Enigma machine found on seabed. [Article Link](#)
- Searching old house sites for treasure. [Article Link](#)
- SPH Engineering announces the launch of a drone integrated metal detection system with a Geonics EM61Lite metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- The story of a lost wedding ring found in a burn pile and restored in Bloomington. [Article Link](#)
- Antique coins worth \$25G discovered in attic. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Government to 'redefine treasure finds' in England and Wales. [Article Link](#), [2nd](#)

Other Media News Sources

- **American Digger Relic Roundup.** For diggers and collectors of history. An hour long program every Monday Night at 9:00 PM eastern standard time. Join your hosts Butch Holcombe, Jeff Lubbert and Heath Jones as they explore the past. Learn more about Metal Detecting, Treasure hunting in all it's forms, and the preservation of history. [December Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** present the BIG metal detecting podcast. A weekly show bringing all areas of history together with our guests, news and much more. [December Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [December News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher** [December Searcher](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [December News](#)
- **Minelab** [December Newsletter](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [December News](#)
- **PLP** - [December Press Release](#)
- **The Archaeology and Metal Detecting Magazine** The Archaeology and Metal detecting magazine are one of the lead online sites in their genre. Offering multiple platforms for Archaeological, Historical and metal detecting news, articles, research areas and much more. [December News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [January Newsletter](#)

Jewelry Returns

- A Ring Thought To Be Lost Forever In The Ocean Found From An Australian Beach 13 Years Later. [Article Link](#)
- He lost his wedding ring in a two-ton bin of recyclables. [Article Link](#)
- Couple's lost wedding ring found by metal detector 6 days after it vanished at Clearwater Beach. [Article Link](#)
- Beautiful moment' as nurse finds woman's wedding ring she lost at sea in Morecambe. [Article Link](#)

Article

- Dalton metal detectorist who sold finds for thousands 'has concerns' over the plans to redefine treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Birdwatcher discovers \$1M worth of ancient Celtic gold coins. [Article Link](#)
- Wrexham metal detectorist wins award for 'one of the most significant finds in recent years'. [Article Link](#)
- From Gold Coins to Medieval Antiquities, Treasure Hunters Have Discovered 47,000 Artifacts in the UK During Lockdown. [Article Link](#)
- French detectorist accused of looting on vast scale after haul discovered at home. [Article Link](#)
- Roman and medieval treasure finds acquired by West Berkshire Museum. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist, Rob Jones, from Coedpoeth, wins award for discovery of Roman lead ingot. [Article Link](#)
- From hobby to business venture, resident opens antique shop. [Article Link](#)
- Gardener discovers hoard of 15th century gold coins while pulling up weeds. [Article Link](#)
- Homeowner in England finds hidden shelter under manhole cover in backyard, has unusual plans for it. [Article Link](#)
- Rare hoard offers hint of Boudica's rebel booty. [Article Link](#)
- Dalton treasure hunter to appear on new ITV show. [Article Link](#)
- Metal Detectorist In Scotland Unearths Rare Medieval Knife. [Article Link](#)
- Shieldhill Castle Hotel owner finds 'old bombs' near Biggar. [Article Link](#)
- Concerns raised over Thanet metal detecting 'notification' scheme. [Article Link](#)
- Rare Roman artefacts found in Ryedale field. [Article Link](#)
- Tales of trash and treasure on the never-ending quest of Kent metal detectorist. [Article Link](#)

- Doylestown man unearths Hoover High class ring lost 53 years ago. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Streaking meteor's predawn flash stars in an arresting video for Minnesota sheriff's deputy. [Article Link](#)
- Do meteor showers create meteorites? [Article Link](#)
- Meteorite hunters say 'no doubt, there's rocks on the ground' in parts of Seneca and Cayuga Counties. [Article Link](#)
- After a million-year journey, a meteor explodes above Syracuse in 2020. [Article Link](#)
- Meteor "as bright as the full moon" caught on camera in Japan. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Thousands of Missing Artifacts Back at Mississippi Museum. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient Wolf Pup Mummy Uncovered in Yukon Permafrost. [Article Link](#)
- How do archaeologists know where to dig? [Article Link](#)
- Colonial Williamsburg archaeologists finding 'full, human range of occupation' at ustis Square dig site. [Article Link](#)

Hunt Events and Shows

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2021 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

Other Hobby Related 2021 Show Calendars

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismatic Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)

Check out your event before going it may have been postponed or canceled.

[Select here to View the Complete Event Details for January](#)

- **January 08, 2021** Event: (Three Days) Stanton, Arizona
2021 Backhol Push Dig at Stanton LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **January 16, 2021** Event: (One Day) Quartzsite, Arizona
2021 Super Hunt
Quartzsite Metal Detecting Club

Government to 'redefine treasure finds' in England and Wales [Web Site](#)

Plans aimed at protecting newly-uncovered treasure in England and Wales have been unveiled by the government.

"However it is important that we pursue plans to protect more of our precious history and make it easier for everyone to follow the treasure process."

Changes to the 1996 Treasure Act will see artefacts defined as treasure if they are of historical or cultural significance.

Once they have officially been identified as treasure they become the property of the Crown and can be acquired by museums for public display.

They are intended to ensure significant artefacts are not lost to the public and will instead be able to go on display in museums.

Rise in illegal metal detecting at historic sites

The move follows the growth in popularity of metal detecting.

The DCMS said the new rules would have protected discoveries like that of a Roman figurine, depicting a British person, found near Chelmsford, Essex, in 2014.

V&A snaps up 600-year-old brooch found on farm

What is it like to find 'treasure'?

Finder 'had no idea coin was worth £10k'

The artefact, now in the Chelmsford City Museum after an export license delayed its sale, would not have previously met the definition of treasure because it is made from a copper alloy.

Under the pre-existing rules, objects are classified as treasure if they are found to be more than 300 years old, made of gold or silver, or found with artefacts

Bronze sculpture of a "licking dog" image copyright PA

made of precious metals.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) said a number of Roman finds on UK soil had not met the current criteria for the definition of treasure.

Dog made of lead sold

"The search for buried treasures by budding detectorists has become more popular than ever before and many ancient artefacts now see the light of day in museums' collections," said culture minister Caroline Dinenage.

image caption The "licking dog" is an example of a healing statue thought to be linked to a Roman temple at Lydney

The department added that a four foot-tall bronze Roman statue of a dog found in Gloucestershire by metal detectorists in 2017, was sold to a private collector as part of a hoard as it was not made from precious metal.

"Although it was of outstanding archaeological importance, the dog did not fall under the definition of treasure in the 1996 Act because it was made of lead," the DCMS said.