

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

December 2017

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 1 Number 2



FMDAC

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 in the hobby last month.

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

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

President: **Mark Schuessler**

Vice President: **Ed Burke**

Treasurer: **John Howard**

Secretary: **Frank Collett**

Legislative Officer:
Position Open

Membership Committee:
Mike & Sue Race

Website Maintenance:
Trinna Pitts

North Region: **Debbie Buxton**
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

News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Metal detector hit paydirt with soldier's family's precious keepsake. [Article Link](#)
- Brooklyn Residents Complain About Treasure Hunters Digging Holes In Prospect Park. [Article Link](#)
- The legally murky hobby of metal detecting in Nova Scotia. [Article Link](#)
- Real life detectorists made nearly 1,000 treasure finds last year: is your county a hotspot?. [Article Link](#)
- Man on the hunt to reunite 40-year-old class ring with owner. [Article Link](#)
- Who is Gary Drayton? Get to know The Curse of Oak Island's metal-detecting 'ninja'. [Article Link](#)
- Traveling Gold Appraiser Not Likely To Give Best Value For Your Jewelry. [Article Link](#)
- Kalamazoo finds Pilbara gold with metal detectors. [Article Link](#)
- Queensland man unearths giant gold nugget worth more than \$50,000 with GPX 5000. [Article Link](#) [2nd Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunt: Derry man organizes field hunt for those who love metal detecting. [Article Link](#)

Other News

- **American Mining Rights Association** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [November News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Association of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [November News](#)
- **JW Fisher Detectors** Side Scan Sonar Uncovers History [Press Release](#)
- **Lost Treasure E-Magazine** [November Issue](#)
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [October News](#)
- **White's Discover** November [Magazine](#)

Jewelry Returns

- Class ring returned after nearly 50 years. [Article Link](#)
- Good Samaritan reunites Quebec mother with lost pendant containing son's ashes. [Article Link](#)
- The search for the widow's ring. [Article Link](#)
- Relieved mother thanks farm staff for helping return her lost engagement ring. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- 1,200-year-old Native American artifacts unearthed in Westbrook. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Man finds buried treasure of gold coins worth £10,000 in a field in Essex - how to find your own hoard. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure finds in England top 1,000 for first time. [Article Link](#)
- 'Detectorist' finds on the rise as treasure hunters are inspired by TV shows. [Article Link](#)
- 500-year-old coin that may have been dropped by one of Richard III's soldiers fleeing the Battle of Bosworth Field is found by an amateur treasure hunter. [Article Link](#)
- Schoolboy, 13, stunned after finding a 6,000-year-old bison horn while metal detecting on a Sussex beach. [Article Link](#)
- What a snarkler! Biggest diamond EVER sold at auction

Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland

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

sells for £25MILLION - disappointing experts who thought the 163-carat whopper might go for over £37million. [Article Link](#)

- Collector's hoard of nearly 200 rare Roman and Greek coins dating back 2,500 years is found in the back of dusty drawer at Scotney Castle. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter's magnet hooks WW2 bomb in canal. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Got your hands on a meteorite? Here's how to know for sure!. [Article Link](#)
- Hunt for meteorites in your own yard. [Article Link](#)
- NASA accused of UFO COVER-UP as meteorite hurtles into solar system. [Article Link](#)
- 'Meteorite' discovered at Claremont's Freshwater Bay Primary School. [Article Link](#)

- The Archaeologists Saving Miami's History From the Sea. [Article Link](#)
- Discovering a Midden on a Cape Cod Shore. [Article Link](#)
- Spring and Seventh Street 'rich site for cataloging New Bedford's early history'. [Article Link](#)
- 'Underground Savannah' in peril. [Article Link](#)

Detectorist has returned for the third and final series

Season Number Three
[Episode One Video Link](#)
[Episode Two Video Link](#)
[Episode Three Video Link](#)
[Episode Four Video Link](#)

FMDAC News Release

Hello to the FMDAC Membership.

A big thank you to all who attended the Gettysburg function. Everyone appeared to have a good time. The weather was great on Saturday. Sunday was a different story. The forecast predicted a total washout to begin early morning and continue non stop. Somehow the gods looked down on us and had pity. Marge Cleaves said it was her late husband Doug's intervention. So thank you Doug! The sky was fairly clear and the rain held off throughout the first hunt. The second was moved up 2 hours and it began misting before it ended. When the original hunt time came around there was a soaking rain that lasted the rest of the day. We were all cleaned up and on our way out by then. The Saturday hunt was put on by the Central region director Don Hayes. The token for a Tecknetics T2 (donated by Mike Race) was won by the FMDAC secretary Frank Colletti. After the hunt everyone was off in various directions. Some went to the Civil War Relic show some went to tour the battlefield, and some to the many shops, museums and other attractions scattered throughout the area.

On Saturday evening we gathered in the breakfast area at the host hotel. Pizza and drinks were served. That was followed by a talk by VP Ed Burke whose ancestor was present at Gettysburg. His great grandfather was in the 56th PA infantry who fought in the first days battle. They were forced to flee through the streets of the town being vastly outnumbered by the Confederate forces.

A second speaker then took the "stage". Mary Shafer talked about her book "Metal detecting for beginners". Mary became frustrated when she started detecting. She found it tough to understand the vernacular, the rules and all the other basic stuff. So she put it all together in a book to help out other newcomers. I have only flipped through her book and I will tell you that it is good advice for not just the novice but a good refresher for the old-timers. We then had a free drawing for a bunch of prizes, some silver and a Minelab Go-find (won by William Purkey). Sundays hunts went off well. Both hunts were concluded before the drenching began. As we were in a major Civil War area I thought it only right that there were a few relics in the ground for all to find. I purchased a couple dozen bullets at the show and buried them throughout the fields. All the prize tokens were found which is always a positive. There were 5 top tokens that were randomly placed among the numbered tokens. The finders were called up in the order the tokens were turned in and drew an envelope for the prize. The winners were;

Gary Pennington Fisher F44
Mike Raback Garrett Z-Lynk
Tom Metz Garrett Pinpointer
Jack Armstrong Minelab Pinpointer
Richard Otterborough Garrett AT-Pro

The Raffle for a Fisher F44 was won by Tammy Kepler and a red, white and blue

We do not have our next event scheduled yet and are always looking for a place to hold it and also for someone or club to help us put it together. If there is an event in your area that we might hook up with then let us know. Or maybe you are in an area that would lend itself to people wanting to visit. Our Southern Region director Art DiFilippo is checking into the possibility of holding one in the Charleston, SC area. Let us know if you are interested in attending there. No dates or anything at this time as we are just looking at the possibilities. But let us know as it will help us make a determination.

Our board meeting was held on Friday. A lot was discussed. Part of which was to be more active on the social media type sites, including YouTube. None of us are really savvy in that area right now but we will need to be. The intent is to put some of our messages into video format as well as written. We will start again sending out a regular news brief. Our temporary legislative officer Lee Weise offered to do this. If you do not receive this through your club then you need to check with your club officers. The information is sent to them to disseminate to their members.

The target recovery program will get off the ground in 2018. The kick off is planned for Treasure Week which takes place at Fox Den Acres Campground in New Stanton, PA in July. The program is meant to be a hands-on certification. There will be a lecture period followed by demonstrations of the techniques. After that will be a practice session. Once each person feels confident in the recovery techniques they will need to demonstrate them in front of an instructor. After completion they will receive a card that they have been trained in proper recovery techniques. Now there are many who will easily be able to pass this. There will be others who will need to brush up on their techniques and unfortunately there may be a few who need a lot of work.

The whole intent of this program is to educate our own hobby. To curb the growing sloppy recovery techniques that we see rising over the last decade. It is on full display on the internet. Many of the videos display less than desirable techniques. People (newbie's) watch this and think that it is proper. So they follow it and some of them even make videos. The problem is getting worse and IT MUST STOP!

We intend to make this program portable so it can be taught all over the country. Now we will not be able to travel all over. It is too cost prohibitive. However we plan on certifying instructors around the country. There will be video made available online but that will not result in certification. Anyone can click a start button for a video and then click print that they watched it. It means nothing. In order to pass

afghan made by my wife Kathy was won by Mike Race.

Thank you to all who attended and to all who helped out and donated to the event. The relic show was fantastic and we talked to a lot of people. The artifacts at the show were sometimes in the WOW category. Those who looked around carefully were able to see a very rare belt plate. An Arkansas state plate was there and available for purchase. There are only 5 known. It could be yours for the paltry sum of \$75,000! I am very happy to say that I have now seen 2 of the 5. The first was on display (not for sale) at the 2017 American Digger Civil War Relic Show in Charleston, SC. If you are in the Charleston area the first weekend of January then stop in to the show and say hi. The FMDAC will have an informational table there. We will also be at the American Digger Civil War show in Chattanooga, TN the last weekend of July 2018.

I want to thank the board members of the FMDAC for helping to put on the weekend events. Also to Nancy Burke, Peggy Hayes and Sandy Troyer for helping out at the table in the show hall. It cannot be done by one person. It takes a group effort to make it a success. I especially want to thank all who donated: Garrett, First Texas, Minelab, Whites, American Digger, Lost Treasure, Mike and Sue Race, Ed Burke/Pot O Gold, FMDAC Central Region, Andy Blessing

Check out the face book page for photos of the event.

[Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.](#)

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018 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](#)

this program each person will have to demonstrate that they can properly recover a target. This way we know they can do it as they have demonstrated that they can. So there will be no reason after that for sloppy recovery. This could be very useful in situations where a park is about to be closed or even in attempting to open up any closed areas. It could be part of a permit system or even the permit itself. This will be a work in progress.

Our Southern region Director Art DiFilippo is working on setting up a donation page for the website. Any individual or business can donate to the FMDAC with a few clicks. Those donations are tax deductible. More info will be available on this when it is up and running.

Last of all...Its election time. Know this is short notice but if you wish to run for an office or to nominate someone then let us know ASAP. Emails went out recently from the secretary concerning this. Nominations should be sent to the secretary - Frank Colletti by Dec 1.

Once again I must say that anytime you hear of an issue popping up that would be a detriment to the hobby then let us know. We cannot help out if we do not know it is happening.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC National President

- **December 01, 2017** (Three Days)
Tucson, Arizona
Meteorite Adventures - White Stallion Ranch
Minelab Metal Detectors

- **January 21, 2018** (One Day)
Belmar, New Jersey
CABIN FEVER HUNT
East Coast Research and Discovery Assn

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