

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

July 2020

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 3 Number 33



FMDAC

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President: **Mark Schuessler**

Vice President: **Ed Burke**

Treasurer: **Sue Race**

Secretary: **Frank Colletti**

Legislative Officer: **Position Open**

Membership Chair: **Scott Manahan**

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, 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 in the hobby last month. 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.

It's seems that we are getting somewhat back to normal. A lot has opened up but still a ways to go in some areas. Just a few minutes ago I was able to get an appointment for a haircut! It's not on my shoulders yet but I am/was definitely closing in on a "hippie" look! Hunts are starting up around the country. I have not attended any yet but have seen a few take place and Treasure Week is in just 2 weeks from now. If you wish to attend and have not yet entered then please contact the huntmasters. You can find the info on the web and on Facebook. There is still time. You can also walk on for one day or more. The FMDAC day this year is on Sunday the 12th. Do not forget about the Northern Region open hunt that will take place the last weekend in August at Beaver Meadow Campground in Java Center, NY.

It is time to consider running for an office. This is your chance to step up and take a turn to work to protect the hobby. The four offices up this year are President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary. According to the by-laws in order to run for one of these four offices you must have held a previous elected office in the FMDAC. It should be a club making the nomination. If an independent member then you can nominate yourself. Signed nomination letters should be sent to Bill Hayes at 585 Fulla Lane, Heath, Ohio 43056. Letters need to arrive by September 15th. After that we will send out ballots if necessary.

With all the turmoil going on in this country I make this one big observation. It started with the Confederate statues and has now morphed to almost anything historical. That includes WW 1 and 2 monuments, any historical figures even a simple pioneer woman! Slavery, anti slavery, patriotic it does not matter. This is an attack on all the history of this nation. This hobby is based on history and they are out to destroy that. It is too far-fetched to think that these same lunatics will start going after the very artifacts we dig and collect. A relic shop in Atlanta was the target of protesting. This is getting way out of control. This is no longer protesting. It was never about protesting. It started and continues to be an attempted takedown of the country. This may be the most important election period this country has seen. If you do not vote then this is the time to start. If you know someone who does not vote then talk to them and convince them to vote. If you don't like what you are seeing now you will not like the future if "law and order" does not win.

Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

Sue Race, FMDAC Treasurer

Good Morning, Good Afternoon Good Evening :) My name is Sue Race recently appointed to FMDAC Treasurer. I've been involved with the FMDAC since the late 80's. I was the National Secretary through 4-5 Presidents. Helped Mike with Membership in the last few years. My first club was the Tidewater Coin & Relic Club down in Virginia. I'm still a member of the Lancaster Research & Recovery Club Inc. of

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

Lancaster, PA was President for many years, Secretary, membership. Still a member of the Silver Seekers Club of Ohio. Currently trying to find a club near Boise, Idaho - My New Residence.

I have been to many Open hunts across the US; recently the Northwest Treasure Hunters of Spokane near Athol Idaho. I got hubby involved in detecting in 1976 and not until the mid 80's before I tried it. I love the camaraderie and friends we have made along the way. I usually use a Tesoro detector. Now to learn the Equinox my husband had, wish me luck. I love all the different things we find detecting not just the coins but history, pottery pieces, sifted for buttons. I have tried gold panning, love it. I also try my hand at Crafting.

Sue Race, FMDAC Treasurer

Special Note: To our valued White's Dealers-



MADE IN THE USA
Quality Since 1950

This is a very difficult message to write, but the time has come for retirement from White's Electronics. We are suspending manufacturing operations at our Sweet Home facility while we re-evaluate the future of the company. It is never easy to make these decisions, however, we are faced with the reality of intense competition in the industry and ongoing counterfeit instruments coming from China. Lastly, there have been critical material shortages since the Covid 19 shutdown that we now find insurmountable. All of us here in Sweet Home are grateful for your service. We consider each you part of the White's extended family.

Sincerely, Ken White

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Kellyco Metal Detectors Offers \$10,000 Reward for Interview with Fenn's Treasure Finder. [Article Link](#)
- Beachcombers Reunite People With Lost Treasures. [Article Link](#)
- Knife, needles and nails among items found by metal detector on popular Toronto beach. [Article Link](#)
- Lost For 97 Years: Local Metal Detector Hobbyist Finds Western Military Grad's Class Ring. [Article Link](#)
- BHS ring owner sought. [Article Link](#)
- A Chicago treasure hunter was on the trail of a hidden chest worth more than \$1 million — but she says she was hacked and her 'solve stolen'. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure stash worth over \$1 million found in Rocky Mountains after decade-long search. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter hopes to return diamond ring to owner after finding jewelry in water near John's Pass. [Article Link](#) , [2nd Article Link](#)
- Could James City County's new metal detecting ordinance change? Possibly. [Article Link](#)
- Wigan dad's metal detector hunt uncovers family treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Historic find: Freeman's fire badge a remnant of Civil War period and Great Fire. [Article Link](#)
- A pirates tale in Beauregard. [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Metal detectorist in historic Roman discovery. [Article Link](#)
- Touching history' -beginner metal detectorist on 1,000-year-old treasure discovery. [Article Link](#)
- Cumbria named in top places to find buried treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure Finds Reach Record Levels Across UK. [Article Link](#)
- 17th Century Treasure Discovered at Road Construction Site. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectors found more than 70 treasures in Essex. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters in luck in Dorset. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists made one treasure find in West Yorkshire last year. [Article Link](#)
- 29 treasures found in Wiltshire and Swindon last year. [Article Link](#)
- Metal-detecting versus real archaeology. [Article Link](#)

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. [June 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. [June Pod Cast Link](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [June News](#)
- **Garrett Searcher June Issue**
- **Fisher Impulse AQ Video**
Fisher Impulse AQ Limited Sell Sheet
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [June News](#)
- **Minelab June Newsletter**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ) June News**
- **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. [June News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society July Newsletter**

North America Archaeology News

- Hood brings archeology field school to students' backyards. [Article Link](#)
- Canyons of the Ancients Artifacts Thief Goes to Jail.

- Metal detectorist finds historic gold coin in field Gardener uncovers medieval treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Stealing Britain's history: when metal detectorists go rogue. [Article Link](#)
- Rolex belonging to wartime pilot on way to descendants. [Article Link](#)
- Double celebration after Rothbury metal detectorist finds 14th Century coin on his birthday. [Article Link](#)
- Comedy series 'Detectorists': Bingeworthy TV. [Article Link](#)
- Rare penny of boy king sells in London auction. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunters' £250 'thank you' for allowing access to dale land. [Article Link](#)

[Article Link](#)

- See the fascinating finds unearthed from Mackinac Island's old dump. [Article Link](#)
- AIA Statement on Archaeology and Social Justice. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeology | Ancient hunters knew their stuff with arrowheads. [Article Link](#)

Jewelry Returns

- Ring find is hat-trick for metal detecting group. [Article Link](#)
- Alberta woman to be reunited with class ring lost 30 years ago. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector hobbyist finds 'Star Wars' actor's lost wedding ring. [Article Link](#)
- Gwinnett woman who lost class ring 18 years ago receives call that it has been found in Florida. [Article Link](#)
- Hunt for wedding ring comes full circle, 5 years after landscaper lost it in PNE grounds. [Article Link](#)
- Man metal detecting on Texas beach finds couple's lost ring. [Article Link](#)
- Vancouver Sun.com A B.C. treasure hunter's find becomes a balm for pandemic losses. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Meteorite-like object falls from sky in Rajasthan: Know about the difference between Asteroid, Meteor, Meteorite and Meteoroid. [Article Link](#)
- A fireball flew across the sky of Australia. What was it? [Article Link](#)
- Man spends \$225,000 on fake meteorites. [Article Link](#)
- Where meteorites do — and don't come from. [Article Link](#)
- NASA investigates as unexpected meteor crashes into Earth - watch explosive impact video. [Article Link](#)

Hunt Events and Shows

Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2020/21 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.

- **July 10, 2020** (Three Days)
Huntington, Oregon
2020 Detector Hunt at Blue Bucket
LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **July 11, 2020** (Eight Days)
New Stanton, Pennsylvania
2020 Treasure Week
Many Sponsors

- **July 19, 2020** (Seven Days)
Vallonia, Indiana
12th Southern Indiana Treasure Fest
(Canceled)
Metal Detector Manufactures
- **July 25, 2020** (Four Days)
Nekoosa, Wisconsin
24th Annual Open Hunt **(Canceled)**
MidState Metal Detector Club

Other Hobby Related 2020 Show Calendars

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

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

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

**Public Lands for the People - A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization [website](#)
PLP Prospector Cross Training [Article Link](#)**

What does a gold prospector do to take a break from finding gold? Why, go to Hawaii and mine the tourists of course! Well it's not quite like it sounds. Who among us hasn't lost a ring, coins or some piece of jewelry at the beach or swimming at their favorite swimming hole? I can remember back in Junior High school during the summer we would vacation near a lake for two weeks. I would spend the days fishing in the morning and swimming in the afternoon until that fateful day I was wearing my mom's high school ring (you hear this one coming, right?). Yep, you guessed it, while jumping off the diving platform that ring slipped off my finger when I hit the water, never to see the light of day again! The water was only about 6 or 7 feet deep, so I dove down and felt around in the mud: nothing. Again and again I dove, and nothing. You didn't want to be me that night having to explain what happen to the ring! I still wonder why I wanted to wear that thing in the first place. Underwater metal detectors weren't around back then, but now I'm thinking of taking mine back to hunt for the lost ring. I remember fairly well where that old platform floated in the swimming area...but I digress.

There is abundant wealth lost around water and you don't need a mining claim or special permission to hunt many public places. If you have a waterproof detector or one that can handle highly mineralized conditions, your odds of finding treasure increase significantly. Let me explain. A typical ocean beach can be compared to the Mother Lode, only better. Why? As long as people keep visiting there, the gold gets replenished! Rings, bracelets, coins get lost in

There are several similarities between beach hunting for jewelry and hunting for gold in the rivers. For instance, at the beach, the stuff that is lost in the upper sand areas make their way down into the surf during large storm events just like gold is washed downstream in the same storms. You can find an occasional nugget above a river in gold country, but you're going to make your best finds when you locate the pay streak where nature has concentrated the gold.

The same is true of the beaches. Recently while hunting a beach in Hawaii, I started off as I typically do, hunting a cross section of the beach to possibly identify a paystreak, or hotspot. I started where my wife and I laid out our stuff, fairly high up, near the highest point. I checked some areas close by, coming up fairly empty except for a pull tab and a penny. I started swinging my detector on down toward the surf, intending to hunt in the surf for a while to cool off. Before I got into the waves, the flat sections of lava bedrock began showing through the sand. As I neared the lava, I got a solid signal. I used my sand scoop to capture the

target. My scoop went “clunk” hitting the bedrock only a couple inches under the sand. I swept away the sand and checked the spot again with my detector. Still a very solid signal, but where was it hiding? There was only a small bit of loose sand where the signal was coming from. I carefully swept away the sand and noticed a small indentation with more sand. A hole in the lava rock. Of course! This is going to be like hunting gold in bedrock in a river. I pulled out the only small tool I had with me, a pair of tweezers and began clearing the hole of packed sand with the blunt end. Several inches down I could tell I was hitting a flat object with the tweezers. I was able to dislodge what turned out to be a nickel and grab it with the tweezers. I pulled it out of a hole literally only wide enough it would seem someone purposely placed it in there like a piggy bank! I stood up, glanced across the beach at the receding tide and saw hundreds of holes, cracks and steps in the lava bedrock and said “Cha ching, the piggy bank is full!” There were more cracks and holes under the wet, smooth sand than what was showing above the sand. I began locating target after target, many coins were standing on edge, wedged into the cracks. I was able to dig a few out with the tweezers, but soon I realized I need heavier duty tools. So I hiked back to the rental car, hoping I had packed the screwdriver I had modified for detecting. I was in luck, it was in the suitcase with a few other tools. Once I was able to employ the screwdriver to “unscrew” the coins from their wedged hiding places, I cut my extraction time dramatically. I couldn’t travel more than a foot or two before locating another target, and my coin to trash ratio was about 4-5 coins per piece of trash, instead of the opposite like I have experienced so often on public beaches. I could tell many had been stuck there for a long time, but unfortunately I didn’t find any silver coins or gold rings that day. I did come up with 59 coins, at least enough to pay for another round of batteries for the detector. I was still amazed at how many coins were lodged into cracks and holes just barely big enough for them to fit into. I find batteries, fish hooks, nails, metal toys, etc. The variety is endless. I’m sure beach goers would thank me for the cuts they didn’t get on their feet! I find lead fishing weights too and add those to my melt pile for the next time I cast diving weights for dredging.

Detectorists help clean the beach making it a safer place for everyone. I am surprised how many bottles I find that were intentionally buried so someone didn’t have to pack them out. You see, oftentimes the metallic labels give their presence away when detecting. When that happens I pick them up and carry what I can while hunting, and then when I can’t comfortably carry more, stop detecting and make a trash dump run. On certain beaches when the conditions are ‘just right’, the waves are larger and hit the beach faster than normal and begin stripping sand off the beach. When this happens a deep cut in the sand can occur. The wave action pulls the sand out to sea, but the heavier metal items such as coins and jewelry are left behind, concentrated in the sand. Sometimes these cuts can be as deep as 6 to 8 FEET!

About 15 years ago this occurred on a southern California beach and my buddy Dan found over 1,100 (not a typo) ELEVEN HUNDRED coins in two days! Not to mention many gold and silver rings, gold chains and more. I forgot how many pounds of lead fishing weights he found, but it was impressive. There were multiple targets with every sweep of the coil! He finally had to stop digging targets due to fatigue. It’s one of those problems we all wish the sand where folks relax on their towels, picnic, etc. But where it really gets good is down in the surf! Everyone should wear sunscreen while out there, right? As soon as those sunscreen soaked tourists hit the water, voila! Those rings slide off the fingers and are deposited in the newly enriched paydirt!

There are subtle comparisons to gold prospecting and beach hunting AKA Beach Combing, Coin Shooting, etc. You will find that the surf sorts out materials for you and when you are really lucky, you can identify a pay streak. In a river the gold pay streaks follow the downstream flow of the river, but on the beach the pay streak will typically run horizontal across the beach. After items have been in the sand/surf for some time, the wave and current action tend to sort things by weight and density. The pull tabs will be in a certain line, the lighter coins further down towards the deeper water and when you start detecting fishing weights, you are on the gut of the pay streak. That is where you are most likely to strike gold! Gold rings top the list but bracelets, pendants, etc. This is a little known secret that may help you increase your productivity while swinging your detector on the beach and especially in the surf. o have when out swinging the detector! If you’re going to hunt in the water, if possible hunt at low tide. That way you can get further out and hunt where there has been less pressure from other detectorists. Plus, the surf tends to pull things down the beach and out into deeper water. Sometimes in storms that trend reverses, but it’s not the norm. You only have limited time to hunt, so up your chances for success whenever you have a choice.

If you choose to hunt the deep water without SCUBA gear, here are a few of my gear suggestions: Well it must be obvious, but you need a waterproof detector! One that can handle salt water mineralization, for sure. There are some good pulse induction machines that work extremely well in salt conditions. And don’t forget those waterproof headphones to help you hear those faint, deeper targets. I was rather disappointed recently when I purchased a name brand waterproof prospecting detector that came with...wait for it...NON-Waterproof headphones! Seriously? I had to spend a couple of hundred extra for the waterproof headphones. Go figure. A good screened scoop is a must when working sandy areas. If you’ve ever hunted the beach you have no doubt found your share (and then some!) of bobby pins, bits of nails, etc. To solve this I place a rare earth magnet in the scoop to quickly capture those small, annoying iron targets.

If you’re going to hunt the salt beach areas, you’ll want to get a stainless steel scoop. A steel scoop will rust fairly quickly in those harsh conditions. I had to fasten my magnet in the scoop with galvanized wire since stainless steel is not magnetic. I can see clearly now that I use a mask and snorkel! Very shallow water is no problem but when you hunt waist deep water and deeper you should consider a mask and snorkel. For best breathing use a mask with a purge valve and a snorkel equipped with a check valve to help prevent you from inhaling a nice big gulp of salt water. Mmmm get your big gulp here...not! When hunting in the surf, there is this annoying thing that occurs regularly, is somewhat repetitive, but doesn’t repeat the timing exactly the same time twice, called “Waves”. Just about the time you are engrossed in pinpointing a target, ‘boom’ a wave hits you and you lose sight of “the spot”, maybe even get carried 10 or 15 feet away as the water lifts you and carries you towards shore, Then, the undertow of the wave returning to go back and set up to hit you again.

There is a cool little tool you can make that will help you locate your target again. My friend Dan Fergot told me how to tie a fishing bobber to a fishing weight with a length of string about the depth of the water you are hunting. When you get a signal with your detector and a wave is about to hit, drop the fishing weight on the spot and the bobber will guide you back to your target after the water calms a bit between wave sets. This can make the difference between success and failure at the end of the day when you recover more targets in less time and energy expended. Once in a while you will find that a target keeps slipping through your scoop. Don’t give up on these! Sometimes they are diamond ear rings or other valuable items (or small lead fishing weights). When this happens, I use a regular plastic nugget scoop to separate out the target. Sometimes you get a better payday on one of these tiny targets than a big one!

Oftentimes while out swinging my detector on the beach, curious folks will stop and ask me if I found anything, what I found, or be curious about the detector. I don’t mind explaining how the machine works, or describing some of the 5 year old little girl over to watch me detect. I took off my headphones and invited them over to see me uncover my latest target. I used my screwdriver to dislodge a quarter from a bedrock crack and held it up to show them. They thought that was really neat that I could pull money out of the ground like that. I asked the little girl if she would like to have a coin I found. She quipped “No, we have plenty of money!” The mom looked a bit embarrassed and thanked me for the demonstration.

Sometimes you can see the thirst for adventure and treasure hunting in people when you explain what you are doing. Go ahead and share your enthusiasm,

especially with the younger folks or better yet take a kid along with a spare detector and train up the next generation of environmentally friendly cross-trained prospectors. They just might surprise you with what they find, and you will find you did the right thing.

FMDAC NORTHERN CHAPTER OPEN HUNT

[Select This Link to Get the Complete FMDAC Chapter Hunt Flyer](#)

Federation of Metal Detector & Archeological Clubs

FMDAC NORTHERN CHAPTER OPEN HUNT

AUGUST 29th & 30th 2020

BEAVER MEADOW CAMPGROUND

1455 Beaver Meadow Road, Java Center NY 14082

3 HUNTS A Day

Saturday		Sunday	
8:30-9:30	Registration	8:00-9:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	Fun Hunt	9:00-10:00	Fun Hunt
11:00-12:00	Seminar	10:00-11:00	Silver & Tokens
12:00-1:30	Lunch-Pizza	11:30-12:00	Raffle Draws
1:30-2:30	Silver & Tokens	12:00-1:00	Main Hunt
2:30-3:00	Raffle Draws		
3:00-4:00	Main Hunt		
6:00	Dinner		
9:00	Night Hunt		

[Select This Link to Get the Complete FMDAC Chapter Hunt Flyer](#)