

Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

FMDAC News Gram

United States Metal Detecting Association

March 2020

FMDAC News Gram

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FMDAC

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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.

This year we will hold elections of the national officers. The four offices that are up for election are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. According to the by-laws these offices are elected in even years and the regional directors in odd years. We have been off track for a while so we are getting back on the proper track.

Bill Hayes has been appointed to receive the nominations. It is a bit early to take nominations at this point but this is the announcement that it will be coming later in the year. They need to be received by September 15 and ballots, if needed will be mailed out after that. The nomination needs to be done in writing by a member club or in the case of an independent member they can self nominate.

Our condolences go out to our Northern region director Debbie Buxton and also her sister Eileen (who is also a fellow detectorist). Their mother passed away in early Feb. Less than two weeks later their father passed. That has to be tough. Many of us on the board knew both of their parents as Lloyd attended many local hunts in years past.

As I write this it is raining outside. We still have snow on the ground so it is has created a wet mess. Warmed up a bit today but that will end real quick. The temperature is supposed to drop overnight. Oh Joy! That will leave a nice layer of ice under the 1 to 2 feet of white stuff that is predicted for tomorrow. Most of the schools have already closed for tomorrow. Sure am looking forward to swinging a detector again. All I can do is stare at others finds on the internet.

Happy Hunting
Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President

[Don Hayes, FMDAC Central Region Director](#)

Hello Everyone,

I have been watching some of the YouTube videos lately and have decided they are a great tool for the detectorist. You have many great training videos that will help you learn some neat tricks and settings no matter what detector you use. It is also a good resource for finding fellow hunters that you may want hook up with for a hunt or two. I love to see some of the finds coming out of the ground and in the videos we can feel the excitement with you. However...

There is one problem I have seen on some of these videos. I see people using the wrong retrieval tools for the wrong area you are hunting. If you are hunting a plowed field or out in the woods a small shovel is fine (I also use the shovel in those areas). But in parks, schools or private yards a much smaller tool is all you need, along with proper digging techniques. If you look at some of the holes dug, the dirt is just turned over in the yard and

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

broken up until the target is recovered. Then the dirt is shoved back at the hole and stomped on a couple of times. This works fine in a plowed field or wooded area but not in a kept lawn. You should want to leave the area without a trace that you were there, and holes with a large dirt ring around them looks awful and can get you banned from an area. So please use the proper tool for the area you are hunting and learn proper digging techniques, (the FMDAC can help with this) It can make a big difference in getting a return permission or not. We also have a lot of new hunters watching and it is imperative that they be taught the proper ways of metal detecting or our hobby could be in danger of getting shut down in your area.

Good hunting,
Don Hayes, FMDAC Central Region Director

Hobby Related News

General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Metal Detecting Tips. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector maker strikes gold with record profit. [Article Link](#)
- The Key to Metal Detecting: "Dig A Lot of Holes". [Article Link](#)
- Team of Kiwi volunteers wield metal detectors to help find lost rings. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunter's metal detector finds bomb in Tennessee. Explosion heard for miles. [Article Link](#)
- Letter: Investigate. [Article Link](#)
- Buried treasure along Shoal Creek? Here are the stories. [Article Link](#)
- Doing a Frighten: Innocent Doggo Swallows Owner's Engagement Ring But Vet Saves the Day. [Article Link](#)
- Pastor finds WWII dog tag while metal detecting, helps family connect with late father's story. [Article Link](#)
- Ring could be ancient artifact from sunken 1715 Spanish Fleet, experts say. [Article Link](#)
- James City County will hold public meeting to get feedback on metal detector policy. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting club donates hundreds to Rowans Hospice after memorial dig for member who died. [Article Link](#)
- Discover the Truth: Metal Detecting Through a Kid's Eyes with 8-Year-Old Emily Copeland. [Article Link](#)
- Bath man digs up precious find 7 years after father passes away. [Article Link](#)
- Ring well over a century unearthed at old fort. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectors will be allowed at Jamestown Beach Event Park later this year. [Article Link](#)
- Discover the Truth: Metal Detecting Through a Kid's Eyes with 8-Year-Old Emily Copeland . [Article Link](#)

U.K. News

- Bronze Age ring finds new home. [Article Link](#)
- Costa Almeria metal detector enthusiasts caught digging up finds from Roman archaeological site in Gergal. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorist finds Thirties gold Rolex watch. [Article Link](#)
- 'Rogue metal detectorist' hits Winchelsea, near Rye. [Article Link](#)
- French bracelet among surprises in mysterious Havering hoard. [Article Link](#)
- Blythburgh hoard: Iron Age gold coins declared treasure. [Article Link](#)
- Rare gold find for metal detectorist. [Article Link](#)
- Stranger in France finds Girard veteran's dog tag 70 years later with metal detector. [Article Link](#)
- Populus survey reveals surprising interest in metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Little girl's lost purse which was found in Edinburgh returned to owner after 55 years following Evening News appeal. [Article Link](#)
- 1,300-Year-Old Saxon Coin Found by Treasure Hunter Rewrites English History. [Article Link](#)
- Massive Iron Age coin hoard worth \$13M sets Guinness World Record.

Other Media News Sources

- **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. [Pod Cast Link](#)
- **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. [Pod Cast Link](#)
- **American Mining Rights Assn** 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. [February News](#)
- **Coin World** - Numismatic and Coin Collecting [Coin News](#)
- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [February News](#)
- **Minelab February Newsletter**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [February 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. [Web Link](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society March Newsletter**

Jewelry Returns

- Woman reunited with late husband's wedding ring after 35 years, thanks to neighbor. [Article Link](#)
- Late wife's wedding ring lost diving recovered, returned to Colorado. [Article Link](#)
- Class ring lost in Maine found in Finland 47 years later. [Article Link](#)
- How a high school class ring lost in Myrtle Beach found its way back to owner in Indiana. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist finds 186-year-old gold ring on beach and returns it to owner's stunned family after he tracked them down on Facebook. [Article Link](#)
- Wedding ring was lost for months at Dana Point beach — until a man armed with a metal detector scooped it up. [Article Link](#)
- Sompting metal detectorist hands over 18-carat ring to relative. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detectorist surprises newlyweds by returning ring lost for more than a year. [Article Link](#)

North America Archaeology News

- Spy Plane Photos Open Windows Into Ancient Worlds. [Article](#)

[Article Link](#)

- When The Tide Goes Out, Mudlarks Dig Into The Thames In Search Of History. [Article Link](#)

W.W. Meteorite News

- Meteorite 'gold rush' after meteor falls over Prescott. [Article Link](#)
- Check your cameras, meteorite suspected to have fallen north of Medicine Hat. [Article Link](#)
- Apparent meteor passes over Alberta skies Saturday afternoon. [Article Link](#)
- Watch moment mysterious fireball appears to fall from sky above Derby. [Article Link](#)
- Watch as meteorite fireball explodes over skies of Birmingham. [Article Link](#)

[Link](#)

- The Regulation of American Archaeology. [Article Link](#)
- Thousands of ancestors' remains, sacred objects to return home to North Dakota tribe. [Article Link](#)
- Researchers Will Search for Spanish Treasure Ship. [Article Link](#)
- Bones found near Port Angeles likely 500-1,000 years old. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeology and historical record solve a Portage Lake mystery. [Article Link](#)
- Mike Wolfe on rescuing America's past. [Article Link](#)
- What Is the Most Significant Archaeological Discovery of the Past Decade? Nine Historians Share Their Favorite Finds. [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.

Other Hobby Related 2020 Show Calendars

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismatic Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)
- **March 07, 2020** Event: (Two Days) Phoenix, Arizona 2020 Phoenix Gold & Treasure Show GPAA-Gold Prospectors Assn of America
- **March 09, 2020** Event: (One Day) Longview, Texas 9th Annual Piney Woods Relic Hunt East Texas Treasure Hunters Assn

- **March 13, 2020** Event: (Three Days) Bryan, Texas TEXAS TREASURE SHOW TEXAS ASSN OF METAL DETECTING CLUBS
- **March 14, 2020** Event: (Two Days) Sacramento, California Motherlode Gold & Treasure Show GPAA Gold and Treasure Shows & Lost Dutchman's Mining Assn
- **March 14, 2020** Event: (One Day) Wabasso, Florida 33rd Annual TCAS Hunt TCAS - Treasure Coast Archaeological Society
- **March 14, 2020** Event: (Two Days) Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 21th Annual Gold Prospecting & Treasure Show Northwest Gold Prospectors Assn
- **March 14, 2020** Event: (One Day) MORRISTOWN/WICKENBURG, Arizona 2020 COMMON GOLD DIG AAGP - Arizona Assn of Gold Prospectors

- **March 21, 2020** Event: (Two Days) Ridgefield, Washington 2020 Gold and Treasure Show GPAA-Gold Prospectors Assn of America
- **March 24, 2020** Event: (five Days) Duisenburg , California 2020 Duisenburg Outing LDMA-Lost Dutchman Mining Assn
- **March 27, 2020** Event: (Three Days) Canton, Texas Charles Garrett Memorial Hunt IV Garrett Metal Detecting and Texas Assn of Metal Detecting Clubs
- **March 29, 2020** Event: (One Day) Woodbridge, New Jersey 5th Annual Spring Bunny Hunt Deep Search Metal Detecting Club
- **March 30, 2020** Event: (Six Days) Fairbanks, Alaska 2020 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW Alaska Miners Assn (AMA)

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

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

[A Letter By A concerned citizen.](#)
[Reprinted from the FMDAC Treasure Spot Forum](#) [WebLink](#)

To all my fellow FMDAC members. I have been a member of FMDAC for only a few days now. I am very concerned and alarmed for our great Metal Detecting Hobby and how it is being attacked. I don't like it, it is wrong, and I intend to do my part to hopefully help rectify the situation.

I have been metal detecting since 1975 (45 years now) and I am still going strong at it. In fact, I still have my first detector, a Whites Beachcomber with a 4B coil on it and it still works like the day I first got it. I don't use it much anymore as I have a newer and more modern detector with all the features on it. In those days, about the only places we could not detect on were private property. So, I can only imagine what our ancestors would think and say if they could see us now on some issues and what has been allowed to happen over the years. OMG. But I can tell you this, the way things are today with our hobby as compared to the days before ARPA came into law, we now look like a sorry pack of cowardly, lazy, panty waist, laughable sissies.

This is the letter I am sending to all the House Representatives and Senators nationwide. I am posting it here and hope it will inspire you to write your own letters to our law makers where we are respected more, instead of being looked down upon as vandals, criminals, and destroyers of the American Heritage. I am sending this letter out by both E-mail and snail mail.

Dear Senator / Representative.....

I am not a resident of your state, but because this is a national issue, it is important you become aware of the injustice being carried out on good, law abiding citizens in our country.

Since 1975, I have enjoyed and participated in the Recreational Metal Detecting activity and hobby. I was introduced to it by my shop Supervisor when I was in the USAF and stationed at Castle AFB California.

Metal Detecting is a wonderful and fantastic activity that involves getting out into the great outdoors with family and friends and getting in some good quality exercise time.

But, along the way, we in the Metal Detecting community have ran into highly restrictive, bizarre, repressive, and ridiculous laws that need to be changed. These laws, the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 and other laws were put in place when metal detectors were hardly known, when metal detecting was not so popular as it is now, and because some careless individuals in the far gone past dug up and destroyed things from ancient times that should have been left alone. I know as I was detecting before ARPA became law and I remember those days.

When you look at the regulations of individual government agencies, such as the Nation Park Service or the National Forest Service, the attitude and understanding about and towards the Recreational Metal Detecting activity and community varies radically. The National Park Service regulations are extremely restrictive, repressive, and out of touch with reality, but the National Forest Service has a more realistic view, respect, understanding, and attitude.

In the case of the National Park Service the regulations are so strict, one can only conclude that when leaving any national park, you must stop at the gate, brush off your shoes and wash your car down to keep from taking any park dirt out of the park, as you must not take anything out with you and park dirt is on shoes, boots, cars, ATV's, and dirt bikes. In some national parks, ATV'S, dirt bikes, and 4X4 trucks can run about freely, and create deep gashes and holes with impunity, and it is allowed. Yet, heaven forbid we bring in an 8" garden hand trowel like the one grandma uses to cultivate her rose garden with and threaten to dig down 1"- 3" in the dirt while metal detecting to recover a coin or piece of lost jewelry. THIS IS A THREAT? When it comes to National Monuments, the same applies. You must not take anything out with you, therefore, wash down your car, brush off your shoes or boots as the dirt and the mud on you and your vehicles is from that monument area.

On the other hand, the National Forest Service recognizes that recreational metal detecting is a: "low surface impact, casual activity where small holes deeper than 6" are rarely dug" and thus it is allowed. THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE HAS IT RIGHT!

The reason I point this out is I recently wrote the superintendent of the Lone Rock Recreational area of Lake Powell Glenn Canyon Dam National Park near Page Arizona, asking permission to metal detect there on the beach and surrounding area. The answer was "No." Yet when you go there, you will find deep gashes in the sand, the hills west of it are ripped and torn up from ATV's and dirt bikes climbing those hills. You will also find holes on the beach with black rocks around pits where a camp fire was built. You will also find an occasional smashed aluminum soda or beer can close by. But again, heaven forbid we bring in grandmas 8" garden trowel to dig out a coin in the sand, then fill in the hole. If that area and other national park areas like it contains artifacts from ancient times and peoples, and is thus so sensitive, then vehicular traffic should not be allowed either. But that area IS NOT an area that contains ancient artifacts and IS NOT a sensitive archaeological area. Any such things that might have been there before the dam was built and Lake Powell was formed, have been destroyed or washed away long ago. Moreover, in some national parks and national monument areas, where feasible, hunting is allowed, even to the extent that some hunters have been shot and killed.

To add insult to injury, the National Park regulations also forbids even you passing through a national park on your way to a destination miles outside the park and having a metal detector in your car. Moreover, just like every one else including those who rip and tear up some of these parks with their ATV'S, dirt bikes, and 4X4 trucks, the metal detecting community PAYS an entrance fee at the entrance gates to go into or to pass through the park. This alone is enough to make this law very wrong on many levels.

For years now, the metal detecting community has and goes by a code of conduct you don't see elsewhere. I can say with total accuracy, most of us follow it to the letter. Here is just part of that code. It varies depending on who you are talking with, but this will give you an idea and feel of who we are and what we do:

- Always ask permission to detect where needed.
- Fill in all holes to the extent no one can tell you were there.
- Do not destroy private or public property.
- Close all gates.
- Obey all NO TRESSPASING signs. No fence jumping.
- Pack out what you packed in.
- Leave all wild life animals alone.
- Pick up trash you find and put it in the nearest trash bin.
- Report your discovery of any item that is possibly of archaeological interest.
- Protect the metal detecting hobby by being a good will ambassador.

The Antiquities Act of 1906, states that anything that is 100 years or older is not to be taken. The Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 states that anything 50 years or older is not to be taken. If we are to stay with the 100 year and 50-year-old time dates, then that means the following:

1. In the case of the Antiquities Act of 1906 it would be more reasonable for it to state anything that is older than 1806 ($1906 - 100 = 1806$) is not to be taken.
2. Likewise, for ARPA, it would be more reasonable to state that anything older than 1929 ($1979 - 50 = 1929$) should not be taken. Furthermore, the way this law is currently written and reads, it means that if you go to your bank and draw out a roll of coins and one or two coins were minted before 1970, then legally and by law, you cannot spend it as it is old enough today to be an archaeological artifact, is protected, and needs to be handed over to the government.

In closing, I want to point out that even though ARPA, the Antiquities Act and other laws were put in place to protect, preserve, to educate, and for the public to see and enjoy things from the past, from personal experience with archaeologists, I can assure you with 100% confidence, that the greater and vast majority of artifacts found by Archaeologist, are either locked up in back rooms to be kept from the public, or destroyed by one method or the other. I have seen artifacts stacked from the floor to the ceiling that are locked up and the Archaeologist is the only one with the key. On the other hand, many recreational metal

detectorist's finds are routinely shared daily with families, friends, relatives, and other detectorists to see, enjoy, and to envy. Look on the internet and you will find thousands of pictures posted by metal detectorists. One such great web site is the forum in www.treasurenet.com under the thread "Today's Finds." The number of items displayed there are staggering and the posts go back years in time, and you can view and enjoy them all, like they should be. Even though there are some individuals, for the most part, the metal detecting community IS NOT interested in bones, arrow heads, spear heads, pottery, or ancient corn cobs.

I respectfully request that you look in to changing these laws to allow "Recreational Metal Detecting" activity in these areas and lands where it is not currently allowed. As the laws are currently written, they are way beyond being grossly ridiculous. Changing them to be more sensible is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your kind attention to this issue.

Signed

A concerned citizen.