

**SUMMER
2008
EDITION**



THE FEDERATION OF METAL DETECTOR & ARCHAEOLOGICAL CLUBS, INC.

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***WHAT DO HIGH GAS
PRICES HAVE TO DO
WITH METAL
DETECTING?***

PAGE 8

TYPICAL MIDWEST GAS PRICE JUNE 10TH

***PERMISSION!*
*PERMISSION!***

***SEE RON GUIANZZO'S
TAKE ON HOW TO AND
HOW NOT TO***

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***"Even a kid from Buffalo can
make a difference"
Tim Russert 1950 - 2008
Every man's advocate***

WELCOME

***The Quest welcomes
Brian Meyer
Better know as "Surfdigger"
As a regular contributor with
his new beach column***

***Brian brings 35 years of experience to our
pages***

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FROM THE EDITOR

First and foremost I must apologize for the un-mailed Spring Quest. There was some confusion and I did not realize it had not been mailed until late May when my club did not get their mailed copies. At first we were going to go ahead and mail it out but the deadline for the summer issue was approaching. Time got away from me and personal issues delayed it even more. I am sorry for those that did not receive an issue.

If you did not receive the spring issue and would like one in printed form please mail your name and address to me and I will send you a copy plus a stamp for your request letter.

The main issue in the last quest was the canceling of the spring event at K River Campground in Morley, Oklahoma. Jill had only a few entries and the board decided to cancel rather than lose money. It upset a few people that were planning for it but it was a cost driven business decision. Duane put a letter out and it was posted on the Website for the reasons.

This sets us up for a "Back to the Beach" fall expo in Wildwood, New Jersey. More info on this event will be in the last pages of this newsletter.

Also on a positive note, the FMDAC will be sponsoring a day at the ever popular Treasure Week in Shreve, Ohio. The Chapters are donating money and prizes for this day and the Federation has pledged at least \$600 over hunt fees in the ground. This should be a great hunt as all FMDAC sponsored events are. If you are interested in attending one of the oldest treasure hunting events please contact Jill McFeeders or go to the Silver Seekers Website for information.

On a sad note we also reported that long time FMDAC supporter and former National Vice-president James W. "Jesse" Beyers passed away.



JAMES W. "JESSE" BEYERS
APRIL 20, 1950 - FEBRUARY 11, 2008

Every thing seems to be going crazy because of the wild oil prices. A lot of people are just "not doing anything". You will have to pick and choose the events you want to travel to and save up for them. I'm afraid the situation is here to stay. The "treasure hunt" as we know it may fade away with minimal attendance and skyrocketing coin prices. That is why we are so appreciative of our supporting sponsors and ask you to tell them so when you do business with them.

I am still working on the email list(s). That's right, lists. I currently have five that I am gleaning through and trying to make some sense out of what I have. The last update Mike Race sent me had a whole bunch I had never entered before. My personal and work schedules did not allow me the time so I am now working on those also. So, if you get more than one from me through my peoplepc.com email address please email me back and tell me. Also its hard to determine who some are without your name in the email address. I want everyone to have a copy of the Quest either in their Inbox or mail box so bear with me while I try to get rid of the "bad" emails. My service limits me to only 99 emails going out at a time in Bcc: and if one is bad it tells you "that some of the recipients did not receive your mail" but not the ones that failed. So short of sending everyone an individual (over 400) email I will keep working on the lists. Please send your comments, articles, suggestions and whatever to me at the address on page two.

Dave

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FROM THE NORTHWEST

From NW Chapter President Lyle Thomas

The state parks bill got shot down again before it got started. I think we need to take a different course of action such as submitting it to the house. It looks like we've hit a dead end this time.

It appears that the new Fish and Game legislation will be delayed until next year. We have the ecologists to thank for that. For more information you can call Bob Carsteson.

The following is on the Oregon Parks for your information:

Oregon is not eliminating metal detecting, because the parks recognize it as a viable recreation and lots of people do it. They are, however, in the process of changing the rules for metal detecting- mostly for the better.

1. Some parks will require no permits
2. Some parks will require a permit
3. More parks or parts of parks will be off limits due to cultural items (i.e. Indian burial grounds, etc)
4. There will be a dollar limit- 50.00, before you have to turn anything in
5. It will still be up to the park manager's discretion as to whether you can detect his park or not, whether there are cultural concerns or not (this is one I think should be challenged most).

You can send mail to:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept

725 Summer St NE

Salem, OR 97301

PULL THAT HANDLE

Submitted by, Jon Gentry, Cascade Treasure Club.

Early in 2008, Matt Melcher and I were detecting a wooded area in King County. I came across a "Good for Five Cents Token – Chas Fey and Son Silver Cup".

It was the usual nickel size. It had no city listed so I thought it was a Maverick token. I would probably never find out much about it. What a surprise I was in for.

Charles Fey was born in 1862 and lived in San Francisco. In 1895 Fey invented the first payout type slot machine. His machines were called the bell machines, due to the fact that you needed to line up three Liberty Bells on the three reels to pay out.

He gave a presentation to a number of businessmen in 1895 of his new machine and the rest is history. He is credited with the invention of the Slot Machine. In 1907 he invented the Silver Cup machine, one of nearly 60 different style machines that he built. To get around the gambling laws of that time some of his machines dispensed candy and gum with the coins. His inventions created an industry worth billions today. Modern casinos earn approximately 80% of their total revenue from slot machines. Charles Fey probably never thought that his little machine would create an entire world wide industry. Charles lived until 1944. So next time you find an odd token take the time to Google it. You may be surprised at what you have.

A LITTLE FURTHER EAST

Illinois and Iowa Treasure Hunters descended on Scott Community College downtown campus for their first instructional class to be given to the general public.

You couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day for early May to hold a class about our wonderful hobby of metal detecting. Don Finch led an all star cast of support, teaching the finer points of our hobby. Ken Vande Voort, Bob Chilla, David and Michael Moeller and Frank Juarez each took a talking point and then we took the students outside and gave them a chance to practice what they learned.

Don talked about his past and the beginning of detectors in the public sector. He then told the details of how detectors work and the proper way of using a detector.

Ken spoke of the ethics of being a detectorist. He broke down each point and explained how important it is to maintain some respect for the land as you dig. How each of us represents the hobby and how our actions could hamper access to the rest of us.

Bob Chilla talked about all of the accessories that you could use. He spoke of the benefits of each and how important it is not to always go cheap when it comes to equipment. He spoke of some of the places to

purchase equipment and the ease of using the Internet to find equipment and support.

David Moeller spoke on the support of the I & I Treasure Hunter's Club. He spoke about the benefits for a beginner to have a support system at their disposal. He handed out information on the club and encouraged each student to join the club. They were also extended an invitation to the spring picnic at West Lake Park.

Frank Juarez and Michael Moeller buried coins for the students to find. There was a grass area in front of the building which gave the general public a good look at a bunch of detectorists having fun.

STILL IN THE CENTRAL STATES CHAPTER

From Ron Guinazzo, Midwest Historical Research Society, Chicago, IL.

I have been asked several times in the last few months by new members about getting permission and permission letters. While reading the Eureka (Denver, Colorado) website, I came across a well written synopsis of why and how to get permission, by Tony Van Roon. I will have copies of the agreements and permission letters on the club website.

SEARCH and SALVAGE AGREEMENT: This is a written agreement between the land owner and the hunter. Remember, make sure you are signing any contract with the person or person's who is/are the land owner or who has a Power of Attorney to enter into such an agreement.

ASKING PERMISSION: Always ask for permission to gain access to a property owner's property. Listed below are some examples, including carrying your own "Detectorist" card, and what to say. Of course, the responsible thing to do is to GET PERMISSION! MHRS has club cards its members can bring along and distribute to property owner's to show that they belong to a responsible club, which includes the CODE of ETHICS on it, that all of our members should be following.

PERMISSION LETTER: I have used a permission letter many times to successfully attain access to detect a property for coins. I make no mention of "sharing" my finds, and don't do so unless the circumstances are unusual. Let your conscience be your guide. Edit the sample letter to fit your style and remember, always be neat, courteous and thankful. It has worked well for me! Be sure to follow up with a phone call, if you do not get a response in a week. Sometimes, the letter acts as an "ice breaker" to refer to when you call. When I call, I say "I am the one who wrote the letter and would like to answer any questions or concerns you might have". I then try to emphasize my respect for their time and their property. You may also want to have the person sign a

Search and Salvage Agreement. Be respectful and courteous, and you WILL be successful. Best of Luck!

WHAT TO SAY: Trespassing fines and a bad name, don't suit any responsible treasure hunter. In addition to the fine and bad name, you risk confiscation of your metal detector, your finds, and even your vehicle. So the responsible thing to do is GET PERMISSION!

It would be a good thing to try to find the name of the property owner first, as it makes you look more prepared. Then think about what you're going to ask the landowner. Here are a couple of examples:

"Hello, Mr. (Landowner's name) my name is (your name) and I was wondering if you would give me permission to metal detect on your property?"

"Hello, Mrs. (Landowner's name) My name is (your name) and I've been looking at your property everyday driving back and forth to work, and was wondering if you would give me permission to metal detect on your property. I won't leave holes in your lawn, and I won't damage any other property. I will also take full responsibility for my being on your property. In return I will also remove any and all trash I find or dig up."

After this initial introduction, answer any questions or concerns, the property owner may have, most important, do not lie! Lies will catch up to you sooner or later, most likely sooner.

If the property owner asks to share the finds, you of course agree, but also suggest that you might find any lost jewelry for them. In short, you want to make new friends and that way secure possible future hunts on their property or their friend's or neighbor's properties, referred to you by your "new friend". They might become interested enough to join you for a "treasure hunt". That could lead to another family joining the club, the possibilities are infinite!

If the property owner say's yes, you should try to search immediately, if possible. Property owners sometimes change their minds. If the property owner say's no, thank them for their time, hand them your "detectorist card" and suggest that if they need help in locating a septic cover, pipes, property markers, lost tools, lost jewelry, or anything else, to give you a call. NEVER start arguing as to why they won't allow you to detect.

At other times, property owners may follow you around to check for themselves what and how you're doing. That's fine. As a matter of fact, the property owner's curiosity may make a new detectorist friend! If you have an extra detector, bring it along, just for moments like this, let the property owner check it out, you may just create a new hobbyist.

A couple more suggestions: First impressions are very important, so make sure you are clean, wear

clean clothes, and NO SUNGLASSES, direct eye contact is the best method to gain the property owners attention. If your appearance is that of a "Most Wanted" person, or someone working in the yard all day, they may keep the door shut, or tell you to leave immediately, that you are trespassing, or whatever.

Remember, you can get copies of these agreements on our website, www.chicagoron.com/index.htm

MICHIGAN PARKS ISSUE STILL ON THE TABLE

The Ottawa County Parks and Rec. Dept. will be made a presentation to the commission regarding the use of metal detectors in the Ottawa County Parks. The secretary that I spoke with said that they would be taking action to adopt the plan that they already have had in place for a long time.

After reviewing a fax it seems that it limits or prohibits the use of detectors in many places. It also requires written prior approval in the unnamed parks which are those not along Lake Michigan. It also states hunting on the beach only but does not mention hunting in the water. It does not require turning in items. It limits hunting to hours of operation only. The secretary said that they wanted to get in line with the State of Mich. because their boundaries run together.

While attending the meeting I had a chance to speak to the Parks and Recreation commission. They asked several good questions and were interested and somewhat surprised about what we do as a group and hobby.

The bottom line seems to be that they will limit hunting to the main parks along Lake Michigan. They only address the beach because they have no authority over the water. No hunting in grassy or historical areas. They did not indicate that they want things returned but mentioned it was what the State of Michigan expects.

I told them that it was senseless to return a 75 yr old coin of no value. I also reminded them that the burying of holes is alright, but also remember that people dig holes in the beach for fun and they won't always be from a detectorist.

I told them of how we help others and take out trash. I think that although they say written permission is necessary for all other parks, they likely will not give permission. I told them that GR P&R dropped their requirement for a permit. I asked that they consider giving a seasonal permit. I do not think that they will give any permits. So, stay tuned. I reminded them that if they ever loose an item we will help.

That is it for now.

John Chirco

COMMENTS FROM ALLEN HOLDEN

There you have it. I highlighted the part "They asked several good questions and were interested and somewhat surprised about what we do as a group and hobby." This is the ignorance we must deal with. We need to let the people who want to pass laws about us... understand us.

When some university hands someone a diploma, they give him a title like 'archaeologist' or 'environmentalist', this person takes on a cloak of power with lawmakers. These people may not know enough to come out of the rain, it doesn't matter! The lawmakers treat them like the only ones who can save us.

One of the first places that I really enjoyed hunting 40 years ago was the old C.C.C. camp on the western edge of Lake Allegan. I knew about this location before metal detectors had gained much popularity, because our Boy Scout troop used this location for camp outs and jamborees. During WW II this site was used as a P.O.W. camp so there had been many uses over the years.

Some of the most memorable finds from that site were, a 1922 French 20-Franc coin which was probably the deepest item at right around 6" deep. I always felt as if this was a coin lost during the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) days.

I also found a beautiful 1944 Walking Liberty Half that I figured was from the P.O.W. days. It was found in the middle of what we called the 'parade grounds' near the flag pole. That coin was down about 6 inches.

Behind one of the barracks I detected the center that had been chiseled out of a large silver coin which was likely part of a coin-ring project.

The deepest digging that I ever witnessed on that property was during my Boy Scout Days. Our Scout leaders would dig a hole perhaps a foot or two deep and

we would cook our food wrapped in foil buried in the hole with hot coals from a campfire. Man-oh-man that was some tender slow-cooked food that tasted great! There is a name for underground cooking like this but I have forgotten it.

So now we come to today. Our state archaeologist gets some notion that our digging is disturbing some items of great historical value, so the local area D.N.R. is asked to stop anyone from detecting or digging on that land. With the growing popularity of metal detecting, more and more people are drawn to sites like this and the D.N.R. is finding it to be a big job to police this area.

So, how do you protect these shallow treasures from all those evil treasure hunters? Well, they came up with a real brilliant plan. They had a dozen old-growth, giant, oak trees along the road that they want to take down anyway-- (for only God knows why.) Then they go to the trouble of digging out the giant stumps with roots intact. The roots are like tree limbs and lying on their side they are about 10 to 15 feet tall.

Now, to protect the ground from us careless diggers, they used bulldozers to drag the stumps onto the camp cutting furrows 3 feet deep! They are trying to protect this tax payer owned land from an enemy they do not know, or even understand. Let me tell you, this kind of foolishness is going to kill the American economy and lifestyle big time!

We would like to come up with a brochure that tells our story in a quick easy to read, illustrated brochure that shows the good things we do everyday, both for the public and the environment.

As I was writing this, Rick Allen came in the store and showed me a leather-handled hunting knife that he found on a beach. It was just under the surface lying down with the sharpened blade-side-up. When he saw it, and how it was laying, it sent chills up his spine. My gosh, it could have been horrible had it sliced into some child's foot!

GONE HUNT'N

From Ron Guinazzo, Midwest Historical Research Society, Chicago, IL

In Memory of RON CURTH: A long time member who passed away last week. (May Issue) We will miss this "big" generous guy, who was a great member, always with a story to tell, and some helpful information to pass along. We send our prayers and sympathy to his wife Alissa and their family, it was a pleasure knowing Ron, and he will be missed.

Dale Witters, Spokane, WA Dale Witters was found dead after several days in his camping trailer after he had

gone to attend a hunt in Montana. That was in April. He was a member of the Northwest Treasure Hunting Club in Spokane WA.

The Northwest Treasure club also mourned the passing of Susan Hunt

Cascade Treasure Hunters club of Seattle saw 90+ Earl Perkins go to the Lord.

HIGH DOLLAR GAS!

All across the United States folks are experiencing higher fuel costs. What this means to the average metal detecting enthusiast is how do I continue to pursue my hobby with all the rising prices because of fuel?

A lot of detectorists will curtail their hunting when it involves traveling very far. Like all of us they will choose to use that money for the necessities in life instead of going hunting.

I experienced a 400 mile round trip to Nashville last weekend and yes, it cost a bundle to pull a fifth wheel RV that far. We wanted to get there so we didn't really pay much attention to mileage on the way down. That is until my brother and I fueled our trucks and the rolling numbers on the pump just kept going and going. Needless to say our MPG was not in the favorable range. We both took it easy on the way home and improved our mileage considerably.

The point I would like to make here is to take your time and make sure everything on your vehicle is up to snuff. Good spark plugs, new air filter and proper air pressure in the tires make a big difference in the way your truck / car operates.

We upped our mileage by 2 – 3 MPG just slowing down a little and watching the "jack rabbit" starts and too much passing. Hey sometimes you have to "punch it Myrtle", but most times we can slow down and get there just a little bit later.

The manufacturers of the new synthetic oils claim that their products make your engine slicker and wear easier and last longer helping in reducing mileage. I can't confirm or deny their claims but it might be worth looking into.

I hope everyone can cope with this mess we're in nationwide. Do what you can.





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Surfdigger's Beach and Surf Report

Welcome all you dedicated beach and surf detectorists to my first of what I hope will be many informative, motivational, and hopefully thought provoking columns in issues of the Quest to come. I have been a dedicated metal detectorist with a passion for beach and surf hunting since 1975. I was in High School back in those days but I couldn't wait to get out a spend a whole day swinging my metal detector in hopes of finding those buried riches that I just knew were waiting just inches below my search coil ripe for the taking!

As is the case with novice detectorists it took me a while to find that first silver coin and even longer before I literally stumbled over my first gold ring. It was found completely by accident while digging gobs of metal trash in an old local school yard in my town. It was a bent up class ring from a local High school dated 1942 but that beautiful yellow glow shining up from the bottom of that hole as I folded back the plug of turf hooked me on the precious yellow metal for life! Living near the New Jersey shore and hunting its crowded beaches was the logical outlet for my newfound addiction. 33 years later here I am with lots of miles logged walking the beach, and many broken scoops and worn out dive boots to show for it.

Oh yes and I have a decent gold ring collection in my safety deposit box at the bank (somewhat fewer due to selling off a few here and there).

But enough about me lets talk about the summer season and what opportunities that are right there for a lot of us to take advantage of. This for most of us that live on or near the coasts of the U.S. is the peak tourist season, when the public will be flocking to the beaches to escape the heat and take advantage of the cool ocean water. And as with any active pastime, people lose things. As much as I love finding coins they fall pretty much after the lowly pull-tab as the most frequently found item out of the sand. I am going to talk this time about where to concentrate your searches, and the places where you have the best chance at finding gold, silver, and platinum jewelry.

First on most experienced hunter's lists would definitely have to be the surf zone where most of the people swim. Observation is the key here.....look around!! Find the most crowded swimming area that you can and hammer that area! In the summer unlike the off season when the storms move things around, you will want to stay where the people are gathered and find those "fresh drops". A "fresh drop" is the term that I use for usually a piece of jewelry that has been lost in say, the last week or so. These targets can usually turn up just about anywhere that you see folks swimming and or frolicking around in the water. These finds will usually stay local to that swimming area or zone, and that is where you want to definitely concentrate your search at or near low tide.

The next area would be the dry sand particularly the "blanket zone". This area is a great place to boost your coin count. And prime locations are usually anywhere that vendor activity is at its highest. This is also an area where you are prone to hit a lot of metallic trash such as pull-tabs and foil. Do yourself a big favor and keep your discrimination low, you will dig more trash, but you won't miss those low conductive gold signals either.

The best time to get out is right after most of the daytime crowds leave for the day. Pay special attention to blanket outlines with lots of discarded drink containers lying around. Those careless litterbugs tend to be loose with their valuables as well. You would be surprised what a lot of them will leave behind for you to find!! Have you ever thought about hunting the beach access paths? These areas can be a treasure trove at times. People when leaving the beach are usually a little less organized and together than when they got there. I find that when attempting to leave for the day people will of times stop on these accesses to readjust their stuff double check the kids etc. Let's just say that I have more

than a few gold rings and bracelets from this spot lost by an unfortunate tourist or two.

Well there ya have it. A few tips aside from the obvious sunscreen and lot of water advice.....I hope that your beach and surf hunts boost your precious metal take this season. And remember, that display case doesn't get filled with you sitting in the recliner!! Get out there and dig your share of the bounty already!!!

Brian Mayer, surfdigger07@aol.com



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jcseeker@core.com

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEPTEMBER 15th. FULL DETAILS ARE IN THE "ELECTION" SECTION OF THE BY-LAWS

Contact Mike & Sue Race

THE 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 OR SAFE PLACES ONLY.

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



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CONTACT DAVE CARTER
dcarter5@aol.com

FMDAC DAY AT TREASURE WEEK

THE FMDAC WILL BE SPONSORING A DAY AT THE WORLD FAMOUS TREASURE WEEK. THE CHAPTERS, MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND MANY INDIVIDUALS HAVE DONATED CASH AND PRIZES FOR THIS EVENT. FOR INFORMATION SEE THE FLYER POSTED ON THE FMDAC'S WEBSITE

ACCOMODATIONS

The convention will be at the Attache Hotel in Wildwood Crest, NJ. The rooms will be \$75 per night plus tax. To make reservations you can call 1-609-522-0241. Book early as there are a limited amount of rooms. Overflow will be directed to the Gondolier Hotel across the street. Be sure to tell them you are with the FMDAC.

CAMPING

List of Campgrounds can be acquired through the Chamber of Commerce at 609-522-5176.

ATTRACTIONS

Wildwood Crest is located between Atlantic City and Historic Cape May. At Wildwood there is an amusement park, boardwalk and many stores to choose from. Wildwood is a family orientated resort area.

WORKSHOPS AND EXHIBITS

We will have displays by manufacturers and dealers, clubs and individuals on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Also workshops will be held on the beach. Also there will be fun and games on the beach for everyone.

BANQUET

The banquet will be on Saturday evening at a local restaurant at 6:30 PM
After the dinner we will have a guest speaker.

HUNTS

All hunts will be at held on the beach, next to the fishing pier. Friday evening there will be a free beach hunt to all registered hunters.

A Surprise hunt will be held on Saturday morning at 11:00 am. Registration will begin at 9:00 am. The two main hunts will be held on Sunday at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, with registration starting at 8:30am. They will be held rain or shine. You must be an FMDAC member to enter the hunts. We will have silver coins in the paid hunt fields. There will be a free kid's hunt between the two main hunts on Sunday.

TRAVEL

You can fly into Atlantic City Airport. The hotel is approximately 1 hour from the airport..

If you need any more info or have any questions please contact Duane Biller at 724-439-1380, Vic Kamer at 724-295-3046 or Jill McFeeders at 330-364-1608, jcseeker@core.com

All times and schedule subject to change.

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

FLYER AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT DAVE PERRY OR JILL McFEEDERS

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