



Treasure Talk



The Monthly Newsletter of The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club

April 2024

www.thecfmdc.com



Note From the President:

We are gearing up for our 11th Annual Sunshine Silver and Relic Hunt this Friday April 13th! The board has been working hard to make this hunt happen.

We have 8 vendors that will be there. They include Minelab, XP, Nokta, Adventures in History, Treasure Tech, Digging It Detectors, Snowdak Crafts and TCAS. There will be 2 food vendors (Different from last year) 589 Flammin BBQ and Wright Ingredients. We will also have Yummy Ice Cream and Jenny from the church will be selling Cotton Candy. They will also all have cold drinks for sale.

There will be special guests including Fred Banke, Terry Shannon, Carl Fismer and Brandon Nicholas. Be sure you take the opportunity to speak to them. They are very knowledgeable and there to talk with you!

The meeting on Friday night will be business as usual but we will try to wrap up a little early since the big hunt is the next day. If you are attending the hunt, please do not arrive at the hunt field before 7 am unless you are a vendor or volunteer. If you would like to help out Saturday, there is still time to do so!

Please let us know if you have made any recoveries so that we can recognize at the meeting with an award. If you have made one this year and have not received a certificate, let us know so we can make you one.

See ya at the meeting,

Carolyn



Secretary's Report

December Meeting Notes

By: Debbie Bishop

The meeting was called to order on March 8, 2024 at 7:30 PM by Alan.

Gary asked the members to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Debbie asked for any amendments to the newsletter, Jim provided the member count.

Jim Tippett spoke about his experience with his diving accident and thanked everyone for their prayers. He may be moving back to Tennessee. If Jim's friend Carl was not with him, he would not have been there today.

Alan called the new guests and members to the front.

Next the birthdays and anniversaries were called to the front.

Gary announced that the awards and challenge awards are in the process of being caught up. Gary went over what the club challenge program is.

Leilani and Yamil came to the front to invite everyone to their store for a meet

and greet with Terry Shannon and Fred Banke on 3/16/2024.

Jim Feilding gave a tech talk and demonstration with club members on how coils work.

Alan announced the club hunt would be on 3/16 at the church property at 9 am.

Daniel Lewis asked for volunteers for 4/8/24 to help teach kids to metal detect at Creative Pathway Prep School.

Break was at 8:09 and ended at 8:30.

There was an open discussion about ordering shirts for the club. Rob Hill will provide more information to those who want to order a shirt directly from him.

Gary and Rob announced the Finds table winners.

Alan announced the raffle ticket winners.

Alan called the meeting to an end and asked for help with putting tables and chairs back.

REMINDER: Club dues are \$25 for the year and there is a one-time membership fee of \$15. If you are paying by check, please make it out to "The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club"

Come And Join Us!!!

We meet on the second Friday of every month.

Meeting Place:

Community United Methodist Church
41 West Highbanks Rd.
Debary, FL 32713

Meeting Date: April 12, 2024
Meeting Time: 7:30pm

The Central Florida Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

1. Fill all holes. Leave the land and vegetation as it was.
2. Remove all trash and litter when you leave.
3. Respect the rights and property of others.
4. Observe all laws, whether national, state or local.
5. Aid law enforcement officials whenever possible.
6. Never destroy priceless historical/archeological treasures.
7. All metal detectorists may be judged by the example you set. Always conduct yourself with courtesy and consideration for others.

March 2024 Raffle Winners Silver Raffle Winners



Silver Raffle

George Landgrave Mary Mehan, Gary Flatt, Rick John, Randy Settle

50/50 Winner

Jim Tippett

Name Badge Winner

NA

March Birthdays



Sarah Richter, Ron Falstreau, Rick Johnson, Wayne Geruhten, Debbie Green, Gene Hitchew

March Anniversaries



N/A



Detecting An Attitude

By Jim Fielding

Treasure Hunting & The Way of Research

The modern metal detectorists (treasure hunters) seem oddly uninterested in finding treasure: "I know I'm never gonna' get rich!" or "We're not really going to find anything," they all say, quite modestly. I hear it all the time. My question has always been, WHY NOT?? When I started treasure hunting (with a metal detector) almost 60-years ago, we literally thought anything was possible. An old cache of buried confederate rifles, maybe even some of that civil war gold hidden somewhere near Gainesville by the fleeing Confederate soldiers. Scuba diving for sunken treasure still trapped aboard fleets of sunken Spanish Galleons, covered in sand. Literally nothing was off the table...and it was always GO time!



Treasure, fresh off the Atocha in 1987 - We got a free Preview!

Our equipment was not the most advanced, our gear was not top-of-the-line, but we had something you cannot buy; a spirit of adventure and we were not afraid of hard work. And treasure hunting is hard work! And some of the hardest work is research. No computers in the 1960's 1970's or a good part of the 1980's and 90's.

Back then it was visiting archives and libraries and museums, sitting in a chair for hours reviewing endless loops of microfilm, flipping thru coffee-table sized books of 19th century hand-drawn maps and charts. Reading first-hand, historic accounts and unpublished papers. And even today, that skill may still be needed!

One project I accidentally stumbled upon was the result of reading an old hardcover book published in, I think, 1920 or so, about Florida's 19th century "cracker" cowboys. The name derived from the whips they cracked while herding cattle from Arcadia down to the cattle yards at Punta Rassa on the Gulf of Mexico.

The rub was this: they were selling the cattle to Cuba and were paid in gold double-eagles, otherwise known as 20-dollar gold pieces. Once they were paid, the cowhands filled saddlebag after saddlebag with gold specie, went to the local bars and saloons, got drunk, beat each other up, then in the early morning light (with cuts, bruises and a pounding headache) headed back northward upon the Caloosahatchee trail toward home.

It took several days, and the cowboys made camp several times on the journey north. With leather saddlebags heavy with gold, they would have removed them at night while the animals grazed and slept. Who is to say, but a few coins may have jolted out when the bags hit the ground, or spilled out, unnoticed when they were slung back over the horses' backs?

The book went on to say when the cowhands reached Arcadia, they dropped the saddlebags on the ranch house porch. The account went further to say that a couple of gold eagles were dropped into a cracker tin as a toy for the younger kids. They said the gold coins colliding in the box made "a singular ringing sound" that the children liked. A gold baby rattle! Now that is where I left the project years ago.

I contracted several forms of cancer, endured chemotherapy, underwent cancer surgery, got diabetes along with covid-induced heart problems. My elaborate treasure hunting expedition days are over. But maybe yours are not!

Several of those gold coins would be worth a pretty penny with gold prices as they are, in addition to the collector's value of a key date double eagle.

You pick up the trail from here. You would need to research where the exact route of the Caloosahatchee trail lay in relation to today's current geological layout here in 21st Century Florida. They would usually

camp near water, so estimating by researching how far they could travel without cattle in a day, would give you some idea of where they made camp. Check maps for lakes, streams, rivers, etc. Get GPS coordinates of key landmarks on Google maps.

Second, start researching the location of some of the original cattle ranch houses in Arcadia, Florida. The front porches would probably have gaps in the floor and coins could easily slip thru, especially if the kids had removed them from the tin box. Or they may still be *in* the tin box, now buried and forgotten near the house. And first and foremost, keep your mouth *closed* concerning your ongoing project!

See how this sleuthing thing works? One question begets another and another. Make a folder, *collect documents, photographs, maps, scans, notes, calculations and write down more questions that need answering!* When you have answered them all, it is time for your hand-held GPS and your metal detector to join the hunt. Good luck and happy hunting!



Finds Table Rules and Etiquette

Do not pick up other members' finds without their consent.

Do not solicit votes.

ONLY bring finds that you found WHILE detecting.

Vote for the find you like the most!

Do Not share finds.

Do not look at the name or number on the back of the voting slip to determine your vote.

Only vote 1 time!

Voting is for active members only.

Remember this is a friendly competition.

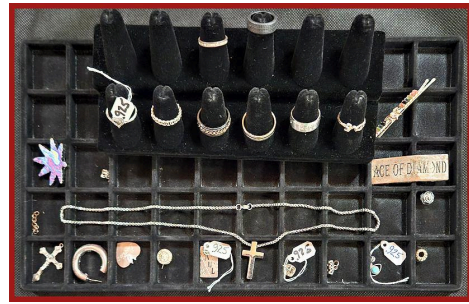
Have fun with it!



Place	Member	Total Point
1	Rob Hill	56
2	Bryan Mott	36
3	Lee Neubauer	35
4	John Ayers	33
5	Bill Green	30
6	Gary Flatt	30
7	Danny Case	22
8	Dave Gascoyne	16
9	Randy Settle	14
10	Gary Dover	14
11	Sarah Richter	13
12	Rob Loucks	10
13	Deborah Prock	10
14	Jim Tippitt	7
15	Gage Dover	4
16	David Syler	3
17	Daniel Lewis	3
18	Kayla Gray	3
19	Stephanie Falstreau	3
20	Victor Cataraga	2
21	Randy Brummitt	2
22	Rick Johnson	2
23	Michael McClure	2
24	Doug Prock	1
25	Ron Falstreau II	1



Coin Single
Gary Dover



Jewelry Group
Rob Hill



Coin Group
Gary Flatt



Odds & Ends Single
Gary Dover



Artifact Single
Bill Green



Odds & Ends Group
Gage Dover



Artifact Group
Rob Hill



Display of the Month
Rob Hill



Jewelry Single
Brian Mott

Club Officers



President - Carolyn Yohannes
407-580-2676



Vice President - Alan James



2nd Vice President - Gary Flatt



Treasurer- Jim Fielding



Secretary- Debbie Bishop

Club Volunteers

Monthly Finds Tables

Rob Loucks

Webmaster

Jerry Hitson

Half & Half

George Case

Silver Raffle

Bill & Betty Shackelford

Photographer

Bill Shackelford, Rob Loucks, Jerry Hitson

Refreshments

Joe Bishop

Newsletter Editor

Gary Flatt/Carolyn Yohannes

Any time you show up for a club meeting or hunt, don't forget to sign the register.

Please feel free to bring a snack for the monthly meeting!

Please make sure that you are helping set up the meeting or closing the meeting down! The same members should not be doing this every month!

