

Newsletter

MAY 1997

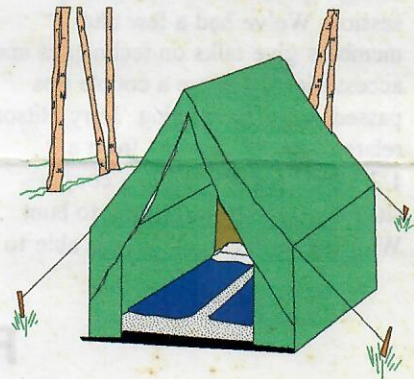
This time of year I expect to see a lot of good finds at the meetings, and from what I've been hearing a few of our members will be showing some nice items this month. I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy their hobby of choice since the last meeting. I know if I only get out a couple times a month it keeps my detecting spirit up, and in a lot of cases attitude can play a big role in what you recover. I have on several occasions hunted a beach area with a good close pattern and not found a single piece of jewelry, but I didn't let that stop me. I either criss-crossed my first pattern or did what I call a zig-zag pattern, which is kind of hap-hazard, because I felt the ground had something to give me. This extra effort has produced some nice jewelry I must have missed in my first search, the point is sometimes you just have to work on faith. I believe everytime I hit a beach I will find at least one or two pieces of jewelry and most of the time I'm right. So remember you have to believe.

For those of you surfing the internet be sure and check out these sites: Western-Eastern Treasure, they have color photos of finds that the magazine has in black and white; Lost Treasure Online offers state by state treasure stories and a link to other clubs or individuals. You can also check out Treasure Net, Florida Treasure connection and Golden Olde. Besides these there are probably hundreds of other related sites which offer tones of information.



In this issue look for information and directions to the May campground site, also reports from last month's club outing and the Weeki Wachee open hunt. GOOD HUNTING, THE EDITOR

ATTENTION EVERYONE: We have finally reserved the campground that kept slipping away. We will have an overnight hunt May 17th and 18th. This camp is a little further north than usual, so everyone is to meet at the camp. To get to the camp start by going to Gainesville. From Gainesville take 441 northwest to High Springs. At High Springs change to 27 and go northwest to Fort White. Stay on 27 and go to Branford. On 27 about 6 to 8 miles past Branford look for the Middle Florida Baptist Assembly campground. If you get to Mayo you have gone too far. The phone # for the camp is (904)935-0608. The cost will be \$10.00 for cabin space or \$24.00 for a motel room. Don't forget food and linens.



1997 OFFICERS

- President.....Randy Settle
- Vice-President.....Jerry Hitson
- Second Vice-President.....Chuck Hosbein
- Secretary.....Madeline Corder
- Treasurer.....Lonna Leist
- Newsletter Editor.....Ted Smith
- Refreshments.....Ron & Gerry West
- Find Table.....Milton & Lorine Raw
- Prizes.....Fred & Nancy Schimmel

The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club meets the second Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Goldenrod Civic Center, close to the intersection of Aloma Ave. and Palmetto Ave. Meetings start at 7:30. Next meeting: May 9th, June 13th. and July 11th.

APRIL NEWSNOTES: The April meeting of the CFMDC was called to order at 7:45pm. We had two guests, three birthdays and no anniversaries. The minutes were read and accepted, the treasurer reported a March ending balance of \$815.62. Doug brought in pictures from the Geneva hunt and the Grant hunt. Anyone seeing a picture of themselves was welcome to take it.

Randy brought in a couple old detectors to auction off for a lady, but unfortunately there was no interest. The club would have received 10% of the sale price.

The Leesburg hunt had about 20 people sign-up. Everyone that signed-up had to pay by the end of the meeting. The camp is large, old and has seen alot of renovations. The outing includes three meals and Saturday night will be fun and game night.

I've printed up a 1997 club directory and Lonna or Madeline have copies, so if you need one just ask.

George Livingston brought in some research material to help the site committee. The items listed campgrounds in the area.

Randy opened the floor for a tip session. We've had a few club members give talks on techniques and accessories. Here are a couple tips passed on at the meeting. Jerry Hitson related how he changed from a 9 1/2" coil to a 6" coil at a couple sites that seemed too trashy to hunt. With the six inch coil he was able to

get between the trash and find some nice items. Ray Leist passed on a couple tips for beach hunting. The first one will work for both wet and dry sand. While you hunt drag your scoop or your foot so you can see where you've hunted. The second tip is a possible key to finding hot pockets. As the ocean churns and the waves go in and out items of the same size or weight get bunched up and will tend to fall out of the wave action in the same areas. Now this is where Ray's tip will help you find these pockets. All you need to do is get to the beach a little before low tide, determine where the last highwater mark is, and work a pattern going from high water mark to the waters edge and back. This pattern doesn't need to overlap, but shouldn't be more than a couple feet apart. As you work this pattern up the beach take a look back every once in awhile. You will probably notice that the dig marks, "note I said dig marks, not holes", make a line parallel to the water line. This is what some people call a drop line. Once you establish a possible drop area you should go back and work it. The size of the drop area may be large or small. If your initial pattern was worked good you may have a good outline of wher to search. Remember no two drop patterns are the same, so you should always hunt a little more area than whats obvious. Remember you don't need to leave holes to see where you found items, so please fill your holes.

One of our guests, Don, gave an

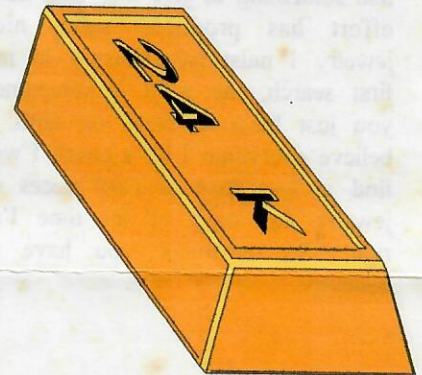
impromptu talk on nugget shooting. He is a member of several groups that have mining claims all over the country. Once in gold country you may find gold anywhere, not just in the creek beds. Don emphasized a good digging tool is a must. He purchased a pick type digger that has been broken and replaced several times from the hard ground and rocks. He feels a detector designed for gold hunting is probably best. He also made sure everyone realized you need to take special precautions while out in the desert, like bringing water, first aid kit and protection from the sun.

A past member, George Hill, sent a message to the club wishing everyone well.

Ray auctioned of some old glassware and raised \$11.50 for the club. (The buyer got a steal)

Half and Half was won by George Livingston, \$16.50.

Bank night was worth \$20.00 to #79, Peg Walker.



FIND OF THE MONTH

Single Coin.....	JACK DEE
Group Coin.....	GEORGE LIVINGSTON
Single Jewelry.....	ALDEN MITCHELL
Group Jewelry.....	ALDEN MITCHELL
Single Artifact.....	JIM INGRAM
Group Artifact.....	JIM INGRAM
Single Odds-N-Ends.....	TED SMITH

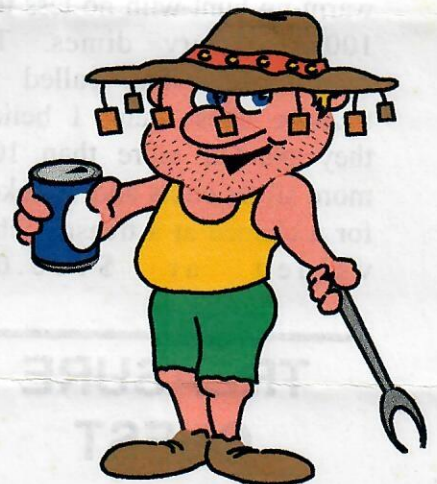
FIELD TRIP REPORT: If you didn't attend the CFMDC's April camping field trip you certainly missed an excellent outing! In my opinion this was the best trip we've had in recent club history! April is an excellent month to be outside metal detecting as the weather is usually very pleasant and this proved to be the case for our weekend activity! During the day it was sunny with a light breeze, not excessively hot like it will be shortly here in Florida. At our site there were many trees around so if one wearied of being out in the sun there was plenty of area covered by shade to retreat too. Collectively club members recovered over one thousand and seven hundred coins, an amazing number in my opinion! In addition to the modern clad coinage and memorial pennies recovered about a dozen silver coins were recovered, a sterling silver ring, many pieces of fashion jewelry, a gold earring, a military button, old lead buckshot and a good "Angel" pen. Some people got so tired of digging memorial pennies that they stopped digging them so there are still many coins left in the

ground for us to recover at a later date. Club members were scheduled to stay in the bunk bedded block cabins but upon arrival we were pleasantly surprised to learn that we would be sleeping in the motel room building two to a room at no extra charge! We were served three excellent meals, a lunch, a dinner and for those who stayed overnight an excellent breakfast. The only complaints that I heard about the food was that "I ate too much"! Saturday night was "Game Night".

the camp grounds came away with Indian Head pennies, V nickles or silver coins from participating in Game Night! It was much fun metal detecting to your hearts content but what will stand out in my memory is the time I spent socializing with "family" while metal detecting, eating and participating in "Game Night". I should mention that everyone did an excellent job of filling in any holes neatly and our presence did not seem to bother any of the other campers. I did find a few holes where someone had left their trash in the hole, please don't do that! We should be welcome to return to this camp at a later date. Submitted by Site Committee Chairman: Doug Melvin.

OVER 1700 COINS FOUND BY CLUB MEMBERS

We played three games; a "How Many" guessing game, Charades and we formed two person teams to try and figure out a challenging puzzle. Ray was liberal with the game prizes! People who found only clad coins while detecting on



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

The classified section is a free service for the members of the CFMDC. Anyone wishing to place an ad must contact the Editor, Ted Smith, in person at the monthly meeting or by phone @ 291-3442. When the ad is no longer required please inform me so I can remove it.

WANTED: Buy or Trade

The Florida Yankee wants your Civil War and Seminole War Collectibles, especially buttons. Call Dave at (407) 767-0530.

WEEKI WACHEE HUNT REPORT: The Weeki Wachee Metal Detecting Club held it's 8th annual open hunt April 15th. This club consistantly puts on excellent hunts and this year was no exception. In fact I think this was one of the best hunts I've been too. The CFMDC had a good showing of members and also a good showing in the prize claiming. Once again I forgot to take exact notes, but Doug Melvin helped me out. From what I remember we had nine members present and they were; Don & Becky Smith, Ralph & Helen Flippo, Doug Melvin, George Livingston, Bill Bergdoll, Jerry Hitson and Ted Smith(me). The day included four hunts, plus a childrens hunt and a good lunch. The first hunt was a warm-up hunt with no less than 1000 mercury dimes. The second hunt was called the treasure chest hunt. I believe they planted more than 1000 more silver coins and 10 tokens for a chance at a treasure chest valued at \$180.00.

TREASURE CHEST

The contents of the treasure chest included cash, silver coins, mints sets, a gold ring and silver jewelry. The members of the Weeki Wachee club donated the items in the chest.

Next was the lunch break and they also ran the childrens hunt . They had plenty of food and were trying to make sure everyone went back for seconds so nothing would go to waste. After lunch was the mystery hunt. I heard that another 1200 silver coins were planted along with a few very special tokens. The last hunt of the day was the token hunt. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 1350 silver coins and at least 70 prize tokens were planted. In all I think there were about 90 prize tokens including those planted in the other hunts.

After a brief break it was time to award prizes. The first prize to be awarded was the treasure chest. The tokens were numbered from 1 to 10 and that was the order in which each person got their chance at a key to open the chest. The first person up was Jerry Hitson, who also had token number 9 too. Unfortunately his key didn't work and some other lucky hunter opened the chest before it got to him again, but each token was good for a silver round. Next on the agenda was the mystery hunt prizes. In that hunt there were three tokens, each good for a gold coin. From there they went to the prize tokens. When your number was called you went up and picked an envelope for a prize, so everyone had a chance at the two detectors. All the other prizes were excellent. I don't think any prize was worth less than \$15.00 and most were

worth alot more. Here is a list of what our members brought home. Jerry Hitson, 2 silver rounds, silver dollar, 3 or 4 books, thermos, aprons, digger, proof set, a few other items I missed and 50 silver coins found in the hunts. Don Smith, Lost Treasure subscription, thermos, apron and a book. Plus I'm sure he and Becky found alot of silver coins. Doug Melvin, two person tent and a subscription to Treasure Facts magazine, plus 62 silver coins found during the hunts and another dozen or so found after everything was over. Ralph Flippo won a grab bag filled with treasure related items plus his silver finds. Bill Bergdoll, 1921 silver \$, 1880 silver \$, first aid kit, apron and a book. I only found one token, but it won me a thermos, apron and book. I did however earn my entry fee in silver. I found 110 silver coins with a face value of \$15.80. George Livingston, Treasure book, gold pan and a proof set. Plus his silver and gold. Yes I said GOLD. George won a 1/4 oz. Eagle gold coin in the raffle. I'd say George was the big winner. Don't miss this hunt next year. They gave out over 100 excellent prizes and planted around 5000 silver coins.

CFMDC MEMBER BRINGS HOME THE GOLD
