

CENTRAL FLORIDA Treasure Tales

APRIL 1999 EDITION

DUES ARE DUE

If you did not pay your dues by March 12th you have been dropped from the membership. There is an easy fix, come to the next meeting and pay!

From the Presidents Desk

Boy this is the time of year to do your thing outside.

We had a great March meeting. A good attendance, some great finds still coming out of the Sanford area. If you don't know it yet, we are meeting at the Sanford Garden Club Center. It is located on 17-92 North of Flea World. If coming on I-4 get off on Lake Mary Blvd. Go east until it meets 17-92 then turn right. Go past Pizza Hut on the right and Colorado Steak House on the left. Just past the Steak House on the east side of the road is the Garden Center. If you go past the park, you've gone to far. Coming North on 17-92, go past Flea World, past the 7-11 store, just at the end of the park on your right turn in. Should you have any questions call me.

We have activities for April and May. April 17th at 9:30am we will meet at Daytona at Ora Ave. where the band shell is located. We will hunt the beach for around 4 hours and then meet back at the starting place to show our finds and award prizes. We consider this a beach clean-up, so bring a garbage bag to put trash into. We are also trying to donate coins found and other donations to a local charity so if you know of any please let me know at the meeting.

We had a marvelous overnight camp-out in North Florida. The weather was great and the camp ground was beautiful. I heard that the swimming pool water was great for "Skinny dipping". Doug will write a report on the outing in this newsletter.

Look in the new issue of "Western Eastern" and see if you recognize anyone.

In May the club will have a great hunt for you and your family. Ted Smith will discuss more about this at the next meeting. Bob Lajeunesse, Helen Flippo, Betty Hurtig, Grady Cox's daughter and Steve Kirby's wife are not feeling well, so keep them in your thoughts.

Remember we expect to see you all at the meeting and wear your club shirts. If we have not seen you in a while, we miss your face. Come on out and support a great hobby. We have several new club members and I personally want to welcome you to our club. I urge the members to get acquainted with these new members and make them feel welcome. Without growth we will not survive. I'll see you at the next meeting and don't forget, BRING A STRANGER!

President-Ray Leist

MARCH CAMPING TRIP HUNT

By Doug Melvin

We had a total of thirty club members who attended our spring campground trip. There were three members of the "Dig and Find Coin Shooters and Historical Club", four members of the "Gold Coast Treasure Club" and twenty-three members of the "Central Florida Metal Detector Club" who participated. We had perfect weather for our trip, sunny and warm and just a little chilly at night. We were at the meeting place about 9am, which in itself was an interesting place. We parked in a line on a secondary road across the street from a church built in 1853. Across the street from that was a cemetery that was begun about the same time. Some people took the time to walk thru and found it interesting to view the different styles of gravestones used a different times and to read the names on them, family names of club members were found on some of the stones. There were a number of graves

from the civil war that contained the remains of confederate soldiers who served in Florida regiments.

At 9:15am Ray called everyone together and Lonna took a roll call. Ray gave a short talk about the camp and some rules to follow. We then drove in caravan to the camp. This is one of the nicest camps we have been to. The grounds were very nicely maintained all the buildings were painted the same color and in excellent condition. It is next to a beautiful lake and there was a swimming pool for the campers to use.(?)

As soon as we got settled into our block cabins we were off metal detecting ! To make things interesting Ray planted one hundred painted pennies, five tokens and a roll of Buffalo nickels. If you recovered a painted penny you received a silver dime, a token got you a Barber quarter. For the most part the digging wasn't hard as it was mostly sand, but since we couldn't dig with anything larger than a one inch shovel you had to be good. It was a challenge to locate the item in the hole, but good practice for competition hunts. Most of us noticed a gentleman named Irving Smith from the Gold Coast Club who was using a "Big Foot" loop. A large loop covers a lot of ground but is harder to pinpoint targets. A big foot loop is about three inches wide and eighteen inches long! You can pinpoint with a large loop. The target will generally be under the center of the loop or you can slide the loop towards the target and it will be generally under the edge (or end of) the loop. Irving saves a lot of time and frustration though by using a small hand held detector that has a tube mounted on it. He can determine the location of the target by putting the tube in the hole or

the dug out dirt and when the tube end gets near to the target it sounds off! It makes another item to carry but in the long run it will save you time. I plan to get one as I have a lot of trouble locating targets in the hole. They can be purchased for about eighty-five dollars and are made by several different companies. As a footnote, Irving recovered the most painted pennies (9), the most rings (five) and the most coins (one hundred thirty-six) - an excellent showing for an older gentleman who has both knee and wrist pain!!! I don't think it is necessary to list everyone's individual finds but here are the general results. Of the one hundred painted pennies we recovered seventy-five of them. Of the fifty buffalo nickels we recovered twenty-four of them. We recovered all five large tokens. We recovered close to fourteen hundred coins. We recovered seven better rings and at least twenty-three real looking aluminum rings. A 1963 silver dollar, a few silver dimes, a few wheat pennies, some fishing lures, assorted pieces of jewelry, lead fishing weights and one musket ball were the better finds. We displayed our recovered trash which had to be several thousand pieces. I think the grounds keeper was impressed!

At 12 in the afternoon we were served our lunch. It was an adequate lunch of tuna salad and other items to make up one's own sandwich. The dinner served later was much better which consisted of a salad, macaroni and cheese and a chicken cutlet. There was a cake for desert.

The best meal was the Sunday morning breakfast which consisted of scrambled eggs, hotcakes, hot summer sausage, coffee, orange juice and home fries. (Did the food make you feel like a kid again?) Well we've had worse so enough said. Ray decided to have bingo games for our Saturday night game night. Everyone seemed to enjoy it especially the people who won cash prizes.

I wonder how many people really looked at the plaques displayed in the cafeteria. Each one has a different year and date on it and each

plaque has either a white or a blue theme to it. Did everyone notice that and figure it out? Here is a hint, the Israeli flag is colored blue and white! This was a camp that is owned by a Jewish family and is geared to Jewish campers. I became rather friendly with the grounds keeper name Pat. He really had some interesting stories to tell and he is an interesting individual! I was surprised to learn that he wasn't Jewish and the chef being black is also probably non-Jewish. Well I never expected to attend a Jewish camp, I guess there is a first time for everything!

In closing let me do a brief critique of this campground experience. If you go by the amount of coins and other items recovered at the camp it was not a success. If you attend these camping trips expecting to recover dozens of old coins and a handful of jewelry, you will most likely be disappointed. It can of course happen but is not likely. But if you consider the fun factor it was a great success! You really get to know your fellow club members on these trips and I don't know of too many places that you can do a weekend get-away and enjoy your hobby undisturbed for such an inexpensive cost. Try going on your own for a weekend, eating out and paying for a motel and see how much you spend! Half the fun is talking to other club members and I enjoy the friendly competition of trying to recover the painted pennies, tokens and lost items at the camp. Another benefit of these trips is that you can become more familiar with Florida! If you are observant, perhaps you noted sites in the area or on your way to or from the camp that might be good sites to investigate with your detector. It's always a good idea to carry a notebook with you for recording these possible detector sites. If you don't write them down you definitely will forget about them. If you didn't go on our spring camping trip you certainly missed a lot of fun. There will be another camping trip this fall. Weather wise it seems better to have a spring and a fall camping trip. It's not too much fun freezing in the cold months or roasting in the hottest summer months. I should mention that low attendance from CFMDC members is endangering these trips. Most camps require a minimum number of campers or at least a rental fee equal to this minimum. Ask Ray, it takes time and effort to locate, get permission and plan these trips. As a club member you can do your part by participating in our club activities. If you don't you hurt the club and you also miss out on a lot of fun. Many thanks to Ray and Lonna who did an excellent job of making the camp trip a lot of fun. If you took any pictures you may wish to donate an extra set to the club for our picture album. Our club photographer is Ralph Flippo who is in charge of that. If your picture was taken at the camp, sometimes there are some extra copies made so you may have a picture as a souvenir (usually).

**Treasure Coast Archeological Society
Benefit Hunt**

This week is your last chance to participate in the annual Treasure Coast Archeological Society Benefit hunt scheduled to April 10. I just received a copy of the TCAS newsletter and the number of entrants is way down from last year. I personally had a great time at last year's hunt, so I am somewhat surprised that this is occurring. I get excited at the chance of winning a Spanish treasure wreck coin or artifact or other prize. They would probably have more entrants now if their hunt flyer was put out at the Weeki Wachi hunt. If you enjoy fun and

competition hunts, why not decide to enter? Perhaps the TCAS club will listen to some constructive criticism and their year 2000 hunt will be the best. For 1999 why not help out and enter. This hunt is for fun but also to raise money to support a local charity. Give a call to let the huntmaster know that you are going to enter and you should be able to pay your hunt fee of thirty-five dollars on the day of the hunt. Call Ron Scherrer at 561-589-4500 or (scherrer@iu.net) or Larry Beatson at 407-722-1946 or (larryb@cape.net) for information and to inform them of your intention to participate.

The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club meets the second Friday of each month. The meetings are held at The Sanford Garden Club. Meetings start at 7:30pm

Animal License Tags Wanted:
Will pay 50 cents each for pre-1990 tags.
Contact: George Livingston 896-3585

White Spectrum XLT
Contact: Alden Mitchell
886-0708