



Treasure Talk



The Monthly Newsletter of The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club

November 2023

www.thecfmdc.com



Note From the President:

Wow, here we are in November already and the annual hunt is completed. What a great event we had. Big thanks to all of our sponsors, including Minelab, Nokta, Digging It Detectors, Adventures in History and Doug Prock and his Detecting Accessories and all the awesome volunteers for the event. It wouldn't have been a success without you all!

This is our last regular meeting before the end of the year since December is our annual Christmas Party, and it's a big one! In addition to the last finds of the month of the year, there will be nominations for club officers and the board for CFMDC for 2024, and we will be discussing the November Club Hunt for November, in addition to all the

door prizes, silver and 50/50 raffles so you don't want to miss this one!

The Minelab Masters of Metal finals will be held the weekend after our meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, so I wanted to wish good luck to the 3 Florida Teams! We all hope one of the teams comes home the #1 "Masters of Metal".

Don't forget your finds of the month for the table and if you can, bring in a tasty snack to share with members at breaktime.

See ya at the meeting,

Jim





Secretary's Report

October 2023 Meeting Notes

By: Debbie Bishop

The meeting was called to order on October 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM by Jim.

Jim asked the members to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Debbie asked for any amendments to the newsletter, Vickie provided the member count of 313.

There was a bit of discussion about the Silver and Relic hunt. We had about 123 entries, with many guests being on the church grounds as well, along with vendors, so it was a great crowd. T-Shirts were available at the reduced price of \$10.00. Jim reported there would be no club hunt in October, having been replaced with the annual hunt.

Jim reported there were very few complaints about the hunt thus far. Some members had some gripes with long lines at the food trucks, and the lack of variety of cuisine. Also, some attendees weren't happy with the ice cream truck leaving early. There was some discussion about subsidizing the food trucks next hunt to make the prices more reasonable for the attendees of the hunt.

Jim apologized that the board didn't do more to get members input on food, and that we should skip the hunt in 2024 and aim for Spring 2025 because of so many hunts in the fall.

The Christmas Party was discussed and many suggested that Cowboy Chicken could cater the party for this year. The club decided it would be a good idea to make a donation to the church as well, and also see if some of their members would be interested in coming over to help serve. Instead of ham, Cowboys can provide Beef Brisket which seemed a popular choice.

Members were reminded that November is the month for nominations for officers for the club, with almost all of them open to new leadership. Everyone was encouraged to think of who they would like to nominate, and as long as the person agreed, they did not have to be at the meeting to accept nomination. Voting will be held at the December Christmas Party meeting.

Break called at 7:45 and ended around 8:15.

Jim headed up the drawings for the door prizes donated by members of the club and Jim thanked the members for their donations..

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: November 10, 2023

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.



November 2023 Raffle Winners Silver Raffle Winners



Betty Shackelford, Bill Green, Jerry Ofstedal, Sarah Richter, Terry Woolman, Jerry Ofstedal, Danny Case

50/50 Winner

John Ayres

Name Badge Winner

NA

October Birthdays



Vickie Chilla

October Anniversaries



Jerry Hitson



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	Gage Dover	124
2	Rob Hill	109
3	Gary Flatt	97
4	Bill Green	92
5	John Ayers	85
6	Danny Case	78
7	Rob Loucks	65
8	David Gascyone	59
9	Lee Neubauer	48
10	Bryan Mott	40
11	Rick Johnson	36
12	Todd James	35
13	Jim Tippitt	30
14	Debbie Bishop	29
15	Daniel Lewis	15
16	Sarah Richter	6
16	Deborah Prock	6
17	Ricky Jacobs	5
18	Jerry Hitson	4
18	Amy Raspa	4
18	Jim Fielding	4
19	Cherly Fields	3
19	Ashley Plummer	3
19	Jocelyn Myers	3
20	Wayne Plummer	2
20	David Syler	2
20	Victor Cataraga	2
21	Walter Welch	1
21	Mike Vorhees	1



Coin Single
Gage Dover



Jewelry Group
Rob Hill



Coin Group
Rob Hill



Odds & Ends Single
Gage Dover



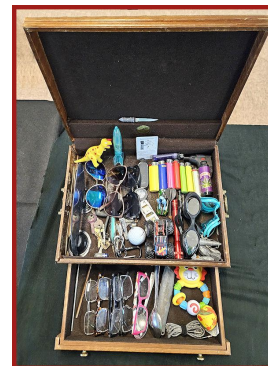
Artifact Single
Bill Green



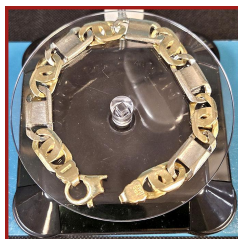
Odds & Ends Group
Gage Dover



Artifact Group
Rob Hill



Display of the Month
Gary Flatt



Jewelry Single
Rob Hill

Gage Dover won the find table drawing

Club Officers



President - Jim Tippitt
386-847-4555



Vice President - Dave Syler



2nd Vice President - Bryan Mott



Treasurer- Vickie Chilla



Secretary- Debbie Bishop

Club Volunteers

Monthly Finds Tables

Rob Loucks

Webmaster

Jerry Hitson

Half & Half

George & Deborah Guimond

Silver Raffle

Bill & Betty Shackelford

Photographer

Bill Shackelford, Rob Loucks, Jerry Hitson

Refreshments

Joe Bishop

Newsletter Editor

Gary Flatt

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!

