



CENTRAL FLORIDA TREASURE TALES



CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB JANUARY 1997

I have several important items to discuss this month. First, it's time to pay 1997 dues. It helps the club to have the dues paid as soon as possible, \$20.00 per person. Second, at this month's meeting we will hold the find of the year competition. Anyone who won a monthly find category may enter that find in the yearly competition. Please display the monthly plaque you won with your finds. Third, the clue hunt is about to get easier. The Park is Barnett, near the Fairgrounds. To find the exact spot use clues #6, #7, #11 and #12, plus #13-if you hear the chains you probably should have ducked.

My New Years resolution is to make the newsletter a little better. I hope to have a few new changes that will liven up the paper and I hope the articles are entertaining. I have been the newsletter editor now for three years and would like to thank all of the people who have helped me. A special thanks to Jerry Hitson, Doug Melvin, Bill Ackerman and Fred & Nancy Schimmel for their help.

1996 Club Officers

President.....	Randy Settle
Vice-President.....	Jerry Hitson
Second Vice-President.....	Chuck Hosbein
Secretary.....	Madeline Corder
Treasurer.....	Lonna Leist
Newspaper Editor.....	Ted Smith
Refreshments.....	Ron & Gerry West Lonna Leist
Find of the Month.....	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., and start at 7:30 PM.

Next meeting: Jan. 10th.
Feb. 14th
Mar. 14th

December Newsnotes: The December meeting was called to order at 7:35. Madeline Corder read a very nice thank you letter from the family that received our Thanksgiving basket. You could tell from her letter that "YOUR" donations made a big difference. Everyone should be proud of their contribution to this family. Here's a little member information update, Ted Kilger's phone number is 324-2699. We had a big crowd for the meeting/party. Birthday's and anniversaries were recognized. The Treasurer reported a November ending balance of \$819.50. Lonna also reported that 19 members have 1997 dues. Jim Ingram had a couple items to share; If anyone is interested in Civil War history Jim can help you get a CD for your computer with the Civil War records. The cost is \$89.00, also, The first weekend in February the Sons of the Confederate will put on a reenactment in Narcoossee. A brief Federation update: Al Dubiel is the new President and Keith Wills is the Vice-President. The convention looks like it will be held in Tulsa Ok. next year. Hunt Site: Doug informed the members that the hunt site for Saturday will be the Geneva Wilderness area. It used to be a Boyscout camp and may hold some nice surprises. For the election results check the list of officers on the front page. The meeting was followed by our Christmas party. We had a delicious turkey dinner and the kids were treated to a visit from Santa.

FIND OF THE MONTH

Single Coin.....DAVE GASCOYNE
 Group Coins.....TED SMITH
 Single Jewelry.....ALDEN MITCHELL
 Group Jewelry.....ALDEN MITCHELL
 Single Artifact.....DAVE GASCOYNE
 Group Artifact.....DAVE GASCOYNE
 Single Odds-N-Ends.....GEORGE LIVINGSTON
 Group Odds-N-Ends.....ALDEN MITCHELL

FIELD TRIP REPORT: We had a good turnout for our December 14th field trip. The weather was perfect! Everyone appeared to have a good time and it seemed like everyone was careful to fill in their holes and properly dispose of their trash and everyone was wearing headphones. More finds then were found had been expected but enough was recovered to make it an interesting site. There is much ground that still needs to be searched and some more trashy areas may still be hiding some more goodies. Some of the finds were a mercury dime, wheat pennies, Boy Scout tie clasps, Boy Scout tokens, a WWI hat insignia, an antique ladies stick pin and horse harness buckles. Bill Ackerman recovered a live WWII era 50 cal. machine gun round which he turned into the police. The park caretaker was informed about our planned activity on the park grounds. He reported information about us very quickly to the person in charge of the park. Monday morning I received a phone call from that individual. I'm very happy to report that the report was positive. He was happy to hear that the live round is no longer in the park and he appreciated all the trash that was properly disposed of. He was also curious as to what was recovered. I gave him a report that He has offered his assistance to us again if needed; Doug would like to thank everyone who went on the Field Trip for practicing the "code of ethics".

Don't Become A Renegade

By Keith Barbo

(It's time to take a stand)



One of the few gratification's I receive from life is, the opportunity to participate in the fine art of metal detecting. The way society is structured today, leaves us with little time to really get out and enjoy the bliss that comes from having a hobby.

A hobby can be defined as, a spare time interest or occupation taken up just for pleasure. Hobbies can range from stamp collecting to photographing volcanoes or anything one receives self gratification from doing. Suppose your hobby is deer hunting how would you feel if you found out the property you were hunting was suddenly off limits to deer hunting because too many people started abusing their privileges pertaining to this particular piece of property — they left trash laying around or tore up the land with their four wheel drive vehicles, maybe they even tore down a fence to get on the property. This would really make you want to hit something.

It was just a few weeks ago that this scenario became a reality for me. Only, in my case the hobby was metal detecting. I had been metal detecting the grounds surrounding an old hospital that was built back in the 1860s. This property is presently opened to the public but, due to the destructive nature of a handful of renegade metal detector users, metal detectors are no longer allowed on the premises. I had the unfortunate opportunity to view the damage that was inflicted upon the property by these renegades. Holes were left opened for someone to step in and break an ankle, empty battery packages were scattered here and there and finds that held no monetary value or historical significance were left lying on top of the ground.

Personally, I view this as a crime against humanity and nature and this kind of behavior will eventually lead to the destruction of this hobby that so many of us love. Individuals who continue to abuse this hobby need to realize, they are considered to be outcasts to those of us who follow the, Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics and will be treated as such.

The reason I feel so strongly toward this problem with littering and sloppy recovery methods is that there are many in government and environmental programs who would like nothing better than to see our fine hobby become obsolete; more due to their ignorance of what our hobby is truly about than actual founded convictions and those renegades who choose to abuse this hobby are, in effect, assisting these misguided souls in their self-righteous quest. I am not considered a short-tempered man by most people who know me but this problem has definitely gotten under my skin. I have always strived to encourage new people to become involved in metal detecting and I will continue to encourage them because it is a rewarding hobby that promotes family socialization, health and an enjoyment of the study of history. It gives

teens an alternative to less desirable activities such as drinking, drugs and other general anti-social activities as well as keeping kids away from potential mind-deteriorating programs on the television. I am careful to stress to my new recruits the importance of the ethics of our hobby so that it may be seen in a positive light.

Those of us who are considered veteran detector users, have an obligation to communicate the importance of following the, Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics, to anyone who may be new to the hobby. They need to understand that these ethics are what make up the foundation on which this hobby was built upon and anytime this foundation starts to deteriorate, all is lost. I have been active in this hobby for a good many years and I have had the pleasure of building some lasting friendships along the way. In doing so, I have heard many different word variations pertaining to our code of ethics. Even though the wording may vary slightly, the meanings basically remain the same;

- Respect the landowner's right to say no.
- Leave a site in better shape than you found it.
- Never litter.
- Fill all holes and replace all plugs in a neat, orderly fashion. Respect the rights of fellow treasure hunters and never hunt a site of theirs without permission.
- Never trespass.
- Be courtesy at all times.
- Follow all environment and governmental laws.
- Teach all newcomers the Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics.

As anyone can see, there is really no end to the code of ethics. I could go on and on and I am sure that many of you could too. I guess what I am trying to say is, "We need to treat people as we wish to be treated and respect their rights as landowners."

Following the Treasure Hunter's Code of Ethics is just the beginning. There are other things we can do to enhance our chances of becoming accepted by the people who live in our communities. Such as; helping out a neighbor who lost something by offering to find it for them or by offering your services to the police. There have been times I have helped landowners mend their fences or herd cows. Strike a deal with them. Say for example, I found an old homesite I wanted to hunt. By offering to mow the site in exchange for the right to metal detect, permission was granted. Pretty soon word gets around that some person using a metal detector found my ring or they mowed my lawn for me; they helped me mend my fence. Before you know it everyone is offering to let you hunt on their property. This is called, establishing a good reputation. Those who wish to abuse this find hobby will get no sympathy from me. It's time to take a stand. **TF**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

To place an ad please contact Ted Smith, 291-3442. It would be best to submit your ad in writing to avoid any errors. When the item is sold or you want the ad stopped please let me know.

Thank you.

SITE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT: Presently I am gathering information to pursue possible club field trip sites. I just obtained a list of military fort and camp sites located in Florida and an updated list of campgrounds. That is step one. Then the possible sites need to be prioritized, checked out and permission obtained to use them. For our January Field Trip how does a two part trip sound? Saturday is a "free" admission day to the Daytona Beach "Museum of Arts and Sciences". We could go to the museum than try our luck on the beach. Especially if you have never been to the museum it is very interesting to visit. Even if you have been there they have visiting exhibits and I believe that a new wing was recently opened. We'll see if there is any interest for this type of field trip for January at the meeting. We would have to go on a saturday that will allow us to defect during a low tide after the museum visit. See you at the January club meeting.

CFMDC
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