



# CENTRAL FLORIDA TREASURE TALES

CFMDC NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1998

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BOY!!! DID IT TURN HOT OR WHAT? NOWS THE TIME TO BE BOBBING FOR TREASURE UP TO YOUR????? IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT GET INTO THE WATER.

WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT AT THE CAMP OUTING. THIRTY-EIGHT ADULTS AND TWO FUTURE TREASURE HUNTERS. WE DID HAVE SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CAMP FOOD AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER. I WANT TO THANK THOSE THAT HELPED OUT AT THE OUTING. VINCE AND MARTY, MILTON AND LORINE, FRED AND NANCY, LONNA, BELLE PEYTON, LINDA BENNET, VERA HARRINGTON, AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO PUT OUT THAT EXTRA EFFORT, MADE FOR A MORE ENJOYABLE WEEKEND.

AFTER ABOUT 50 POUNDS OF TRASH WAS DUG ON SATURDAY THEN SUNDAY A LOT OF INTERESTING FINDS STARTED POPPING OUT OF THE GROUND. COME TO THE MEETING AND SEE WHAT FRED FOUND. WE ALSO HAVE SOME VERY INTERESTING PICTURES OF SOME OF THE NATIVES. OVER ALL I BELIEVE IT WAS A VERY GOOD WEEKEND HUNT. WE HAVE A SPEAKER LINED UP FOR THE JUNE MEETING THAT SHOULD BE VERY INTERESTING ON A SUBJECT THAT IS NOT SPOKEN ABOUT ENOUGH.

THE JUNE OUTING IS SATURDAY JUNE THE 13TH AT MOSS PARK. (LOCATED OFF 15A EAST OF ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT). THE CLUB WILL BE FURNISHING THE HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS, WITH ALL THE FIXINGS AND ALSO SODA. WE ARE ASKING YOU TO BRING A

COVERED DISH AND IF YOU CAN'T DRINK SODA BRING YOUR OWN DRINK. WE HAVE RENTED PRIVILLION NUMBER 2 DOWN BY THE LAKE. THEY ARE ALSO GOING TO OPEN THE BACK AREA FOR US TO HUNT IN. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL LARGE HUNTS IN THIS AREA AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME GOODIES LEFT BEHIND. ALSO THERE WAS SOME EXCELLENT FINDS TAKEN OUT OF THE PARK BACK IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES. SO THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY OF COINS, JEWELRY AND OTHER GOOD FINDS. TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE OUTING AND OTHER COMING ATTRACTIONS MAKE SURE YOU COME TO 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.

I WILL SEE ALL OF YOU AT THE JUNE CLUB MEETING AND DON'T FORGET!!!!!!!!!!!!

BRING A STRANGER.

**PRESIDENT**

**RAY LEIST**

## 1998 OFFICERS

President.....Ray Leist

Vice-President.....Doug Melvin

Second Vice-President.....Vince Faulkner

Secretary.....Madeline Corder

Treasurer.....Lonna Leist

Newsletter Editor.....Ted Smith

Refreshments.....Ron & Gerry West

Find Table.....Rob Loucks

Prize Table.....Fred & Nancy Schimmel

The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club meets the second Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Autonations Dealership at 4911 Wayside Drive, near the intersection of I-4 and SR-46. Meetings start at 7:30pm. Next meetings: June 12th, July 10th and Aug. 14th

**MAY NEWSNOTES:** The May meeting of the CFMDC was called to order at 7:35pm before 33 members and 5 guests. Birthdays and anniversaries were recognized.

We had a guest speaker from Kellyco, John Fetner. John talked about some of the newer detectors on the market. All the major manufactures are producing some fantastic machines and whats amazing is the technology and features that you will find in some very affordable machines. Just about all the manufacturers make machines to cover all aspects of our hobby, such as water hunting, prospecting, coin shooting and relic hunting. If you haven't bought a new machine for awhile it might be fun to go up to Kellyco and try out all the new models.

**Jim Ingram** has relocated to somewhere in Penn. His new address is 687 Cedar Hill Dr., Allentown, Pa. 18103. This is only a temp address.

The club has a campground hunt May 16th and 17th out near Eustis. Everyone was t meet at the Winn-Dixie at 19 and CR44B, and then go out the site. Signs will be put up for those who are late.

The minutes were read and accepted. The treasurer reported a April ending balance of \$1147.72.

We went over the activities calendar. June 13th we will have a club get-together at Moss Park. The club will provide hamburger and hot dogs, everyone is asked to

bring a side dish. Don't forget your detector, we will also have a hunt and knowing **Ray** I'm sure there will be some surprises.

The mystery prize this month was donated by **Jerry Huddleston**. He puts together some real nice treasure boxes. In this box were jewelry items, coins and tokens, etc. The lucky winner of the treasure chest was **Bill Bergdoll**. **Lorine Raw** won \$25.50 in the half and half drawing. **Mike Myers, #8**, missed \$20.00 for the bank night drawing.

**New Members:** We have started a very good trend, for the last 2 or 3 months we have had 2 or more new members join at each meeting. With the addition of **Grady Cox** and **Lance Detotto** at the May meeting our membership is about 63. One thing thats even more impressive is the percentage of members we average at each meeting. Out of 63 members we regularly have 30 to 40 at each meeting. Remember everyone to make a point to welcome Grady and Lance, as well as our other new members.

**It's too hot!** If you go out in this weather to land hunt then you're tougher than I am. I just want to say play it safe, don't overdue it. If you like air conditioning and quiet, you might want to go to the library and do some research. The micro-film of the old newspapers is amazing. Awhile back I picked a paper from the turn of the century on a major holiday and read an article about a big picnic. I haven't foun the picnic grove it was held in yet, but if I continue on through the years and read more about these picnics I might be able to find it. The point is , there are alot of sites if you take the time to look and since its so hot out you might as well do something to make next falls hunting more productive.

A little reminder, **Madeline** is in need of more donations for Park Lake Nursing center. Generic sodas are ok, or whatever is on sale. With this heat bottled water might even be a good idea.

Last months find of the month table was pretty full. A couple of the winning entries were brought in by **Dave Gascoyne**. He had an 1825 Mexican dime and a piece of silver indian jewelry that dates back to the Seminole wars. **Steve Kirby** won three of the catagories and his group coin entry was very impressive. He had a silver half, two silver quarters, 18 silver dimes and an indian head penny.

**GOOD HUNTING**  
**THE EDITOR**

## FIND OF THE MONTH

Single Coin.....	DAVE GASCOYNE
Group Coin.....	STEVE KIRBY
Single Jewelry.....	RICHARD KLOC
Group Jewelry.....	STEVE KIRBY
Single Artifact.....	DAVE GASCOYNE
Group Artifact.....	DAVE GASCOYNE
Single Odds-N-Ends.....	JOE WALTON
Group Odds-N-Ends.....	STEVE KIRBY

## **MAY CAMPING TRIP: by Doug Melvin**

Thirty-eight adults went on the May 16-17 camping trip sponsored by the CFMDC, including members from two other clubs, the Dig & Find Coinshooters and Historical Club and the Gold Coast Treasure Club. We went from freezing the last campout to broiling on this one. Most attendees seemed to have a good time, but the heat can take it out of a person. To make things interesting, on the Friday before our arrival **Ray Leist** and **Jack Dee** planted 350 targets around the entire camp, including 300 silver dimes, 20 red trash items, and some of other coins (some quite old). By noon Saturday, only 75 dimes, five red targets, and a smattering of other targets had been recovered. By six PM, the count was up to 175 dimes and 8 red trash targets. After Sunday breakfast, prizes were awarded for the red targets. Eight people were allowed to select two envelopes. Each contained cash in different denominations. Everyone won at least two dollars and most won more. Because people left the camp at various times Saturday night and Sunday, a revised list of recovered items was not made, but Ray estimated that about 75 silver dimes remained unrecovered. This demonstrates that no site will ever be completely hunted out. In addition to the planted coins about 1,200 lost coins were recovered. Also eight rings, a gold necklace, assorted other pieces of jewelry, a 1930 buffalo nickel, and an indian head penny were recovered.

A few more finds of note were a sterling silver lady's antique shoehorn by **Fred Schimmel**. Warren Trager found a large key ring filled with keys that had been lost by a staff member the year before. The camp staff were happy to get them back. Both of these finds were recovered right around the cabins; those real loud signals aren't always trash. **Chuck Hosbein** recovered a rectangular brass plaque, which he showed to me. The lettering was hard to read, but I got excited when I saw 1822 on it. Upon closer examination, though, it was discovered to be a memorial plaque that had been attached to one of the concrete picnic tables by the camp director in memory of his wife. At the bottom of the plaque was the reference Proverbs 18:22; you may wish to look it up. Chuck returned it to the camp director.

All the recovered trash was laid out on a table outside the mess hall. I believe that all of us, including the camp staff were impressed by the amount of trash we recovered. According to **Vince Faulkner**, who disposed of it all, it weighed about 50 pounds. I estimate at least 5000 separate targets worth. That was a lot of trash, but if everyone had been adhering to the code of ethics, the pile would have been greater. A number of people complained about finding holes with trash left outside or in the hole as well as unfilled holes. I confirmed the same. Not only is this inconsiderate behavior because it makes people waste their time checking out a target that should have been removed, but reflects poorly on our hobby and bolster those who

would ban metal detecting. I did get the last laugh on this miscreant, though, because a number of times I removed the trash only to get a good signal, including silver dimes, that had been masked by the trash. Someone told me that one silver dime that they found was directly beneath a pull tab. I suspect that many of those unrecovered items are near trash targets.

We played bingo on Saturday night and a tableful of nice prizes were given away. **Deyton** did a great job as the caller. There were chuckles and laughs throughout the games.

The campground cabins and facilities were nice, and the sandy ground made for easy digging in most spots, although some ground was mighty hard just a bit below the surface. We had forty acres to detect and that was plenty for a group our size ( more than an acre a person ). I would like to report the food was great, but I can't. It seemed that we got KCF (Kid's Camp Food). No one went hungry or thirsty, but there were more than a few comments about the quality of the meals.

It certainly wasn't a mistake going to this camp, it had plenty of good points. It was a short drive for most of the attendees, the facilities were good, the camp size was adequate for our group, the cost was reasonable, and it had never been metal detected. It was hard not to get your money's worth.

**Quest's Gold:** Last months Quest had an interesting article on Gold and Silver. For the most part it was accurate, but they did make a couple errors. Most of the gold we will come in contact with will be either 10k or 14k. If you have a 10k gold item it may be stamped "417", which is the percentage of gold in the item. 14k gold items may also be marked "585", which is its percentage of gold. If you find a gold item marked 10kp or 14kp the "p" stands for "plum". This is to signify when an item is of higher quality. In todays market alot of jewelry is plated. Antique jewelry was gold filled. Plated items usually have the letters "HGE" or "EP" after the "k". A typical mark for gold filled would be "1/20th 14kgf". Gold filled is 300 times thicker than gold plating and easily mistaken for solid gold. The only way to tell if an unmarked piece of jewelry is solid or filled is to do a scratch test. Unfortunately this may damage the item. This test requires putting a deep scratch on the item and putting acid on it. If the item is solid gold you have a scratch on it. If the item is gold filled, besides the scratch it will probably turn black from the acid.

The only other gold items we will probably come in contact with are 18k, which may also be stamped "750", or vermeil, which is sterling silver electroplated with gold.

**FROM THE NET:** The following is from a couple article on the internet. I'd like to thank **Bill Bergdoll** for sending them to me. 23 Apr 1998

**KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) -** Investigators raided a famed treasure hunter's shop and questioned the authenticity of gold coins he said were salvaged from sunken galleons.

A team from the Monroe County state attorney's office and Florida Department of Law Enforcement swept into Mel Fisher's shop on Wednesday, ordered everyone out and began examining coins and souvenirs.

Allegations that the shop was selling counterfeit gold coins as treasure and false certificates of authenticity surfaced two months ago, ssaid Kirk Zuelch, Monroe County stat attorney.

No arrests were expected immediately, he said.

1 May 1998

A raid at a gift shop run by treasure hunter Mel Fisher yielded gold coins that an expert says are modern-day counterfeits - not booty from Spanish galleons that went down off Florida in 1733.

Richard Pontrio, a coin-minting expert from San Diego who was brought in by prosecutors, said the 25 coins that investigators seized

last week, and two others provided by a suspicious customer, were hand-stamped imitations.

Fisher's company denied the claim and said the coins were authentic.

The coins seized in the raid on Fisher's Key West gift shop had been backed by certificates stating they were found off the Florida Keys in a reef area where treasure galleons sank in a 1733 hurricane.

The state has been investigating his treasurers since January, when a customer complained that a coin he bought from him for \$5,900 wasn't genuine.

Pontrio said the coins in question were struck the same way as those made in New World Spanish mints centuries ago: from hand-carved metal dies that stamped an image into the soft gold.

But that means faking the coins would be more trouble than it's worth, said Pat Clynne, vice president of Fisher's company, Salvors Inc.

Someone from Salvors will go this week or next in search of the original Spanish dies for the gold coins in question, Clynne said.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

The classified section is a free service for the members of the CFMDC. Anyone wishing to place an 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.

**FOR SALE:** Long handled scoop. A must for water hunting, would cost well over \$100.00 new. 1st \$50.00 takes it. Contact Jerry Hitson at 851-9466.

### \*WANTED: Buy or Trade\*

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

George Livingston is interested in buying dog, or any other animal, tags. Will pay 50 cents for any tag in reasonable condition. Bring you tags to the meeting for George's official appraisal.