



Treasure Talk

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB



February

Meeting Friday February 10, 2012

Club Officers

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| President Alan James | 386-717-5775 nonialan@earthlink.net |
| Vice-President Bill Shackelford | 407-323-2954 |
| 2nd Vice-President Bill Green | |
| Secretary Debbie Green | |
| Treasurer Chuck Hosbein | |

Club Volunteers

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Half/Half | George and Bea Case |
| Raffle's | Betty Shackelford |
| Find of the month table's | Rob Loucks |
| Photographer | Ralph Flippo Rob Loucks Lorrie Sprigg Jerry Hitson |
| Webmaster | Jerry Hitson |
| Activity Director | Lorrie Sprigg Africanlor@aol.com |
| Newsletter | Jerry Hitson G8r81@cfl.rr.com |

A Great BIG thanks to all these people!

Come Join Us!

We will be eating at the Colorado's Steak Place. It is just north of the meeting place. Park at the meeting building and walk over. We eat at 5:30. If you would like to join us, we would be happy to see you. BYOM!

The club meets the 2nd Friday of each month at the Sanford Garden Club. It is located about 2 blocks south of Lake Mary Blvd. on the east side of 17-92. For more information contact Bill Shackelford at (407) 323-3401 or Alan James at (386) 717-5775

Club web site: www.thecfmdc.com

You are receiving this newsletter
because you are a V.I.P.

REMINDER: The club dues are \$25 for the year and a membership fee of \$15. If you are paying by check please make it out to the
CFMDC

President's Corner

On Saturday February 4, 2012, a group of eleven CFMDC members got up early and headed into Orlando to help the Orlando Police Department with an ongoing criminal investigation. The task at hand was to search a specific area for lost (tossed) weapons. The search lasted several hours under some pretty rough hunting conditions.

It was a bloody mess! After hours of searching through thorns, poison ivy, dense underbrush, swamps, canals & mud, unfortunately at the end of the day, the blood was all ours. Many of us were oozing blood from heads, hands, arms & legs due to an unrelenting attack by the thorns and brush. I don't know how the bad guys got out without needing transfusions, but such is life.

Everyone needs to understand that this group went above & beyond. Even though no weapons were found, I want to thank each of you for taking the time to make a difference.

If you can stomach it, I think pictures will be on the website soon.

Recently, talks were started with a local charity. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the club will soon have the opportunity to work with a group of kids and adults who are confined to wheelchairs. We are putting together the details now and the intent is to plan an organized hunt specifically designed for this group. During this hunt, CFMDC members will not hunt, however, we will assist those who are in the wheelchairs to participate in the hobby we all love. The time frame for this event will be in June and again in July. We will provide as much information as possible at the next meeting.

NOTE: Because of a scheduling conflict the April meeting date has been changed to the third Friday April 20th. This is for the April meeting only.

I would like to request some help as we continue to fight a city ordinance which prohibits metal detecting on all city owned land in Orange City. Each of you please take a few minutes to contact the mayor and city council in Orange City and respectfully request that they remove this ordinance from the city code book. Please send a letter if possible or at least an email and request that all council members receive a copy of your letter. The mailing address is:

City Council and Mayor

Mayor Laputka's email:
City Clerk's Office

tlaputka@ourorangecity.com
229 E Graves Ave.
Orange City, FL 32763

We now have over 100 members in the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club and all of us should be proud of how we represent our hobby; I know I am.

See you at the next meeting.

Alan

Secretary's Report – Debbie Green

CFMDC Meeting Notes

The January meeting of the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club was called to order at 7:30 pm by club president, Alan James. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting, Happy New Year greetings were extended and the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Green.

Alan James

December secretary report - Read and accepted
December treasurer report - Read and accepted
January birthdays - Recognized
January anniversaries - There were no anniversaries to celebrate

Guests

Eight guests were called to the front of the room and welcomed to their first CFMDC meeting.

Alan James

Club Website - Thanks to Jerry Hitson for all of his work on the club website. After the article about the CFMDC was published in Lost Treasure Magazine Online after submissions from Alan James and Jerry Hitson. The website experienced 299 hits the first day and 400 hits the following day. We are glad that so many people are checking out the club's website.

Special Awards - Bill Green was awarded a certificate for working on two separate requests from community members for help in finding lost items. One search was in Volusia County for a lost diamond engagement ring, and

one search was in Orange County for a lost diamond tennis bracelet.

Bill Shackelford

Challenge Program - Melody Parks received an award for completing Level I and Sally Kornes received an award for completing Level I. Congratulations Challenge Program winners!

Alan James

Appreciation Hunt - There is a hunt planned for Saturday, January 21, 2012, 10:00am at Wilson Park in Seminole County. There will be no fees for this Club Appreciation Hunt as a thank you to club members. If you need directions, please see Bill Shackelford. There is no lunch planned after the hunt, so if you would like to bring a lunch, there are tables available in the pavilion.

David Gray

Club Cruise - Pam and I have been on two cruises this winter searching for possible metal detecting sights and have decided the Carnival Dream, Western Caribbean is the best choice for another club cruise in 2012. There could be as many as 100 cabins currently available for September 1st. We will continue working on the possibility of a CFMDC cruise and keep you updated. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Alan James

Finds - We will be having the "Finds of the Year for 2010" and the combined "Finds of the Month" for December 2011 and January 2012 this evening.

Orange City - There currently is no metal detecting allowed inside the limits of Orange City. I am continuing to discuss this with city officials.

Brevard County - There also is no metal detecting allowed in Brevard County parks. If club members hear of any updates regarding Central Florida hunt areas, please let the club know. Our intent is to abide by the ordinances of our local governments, and keep up-to-date with metal detecting privileges within our communities.

Bill Green

I spoke to one the managers of the Orange County parks system, and hope to have a speaker confirmed for an upcoming club meeting.

Lorrie Sprigg

Awards

The club would like to award \$25 gift certificates to the following members:

Alan and Janice James for all of the work related to the presidency

Jerry Hitson for his work on the club website and newsletter

Rob Loucks for his work at the finds table

Chuck Hosbein for all that he does with the club membership roster and dues

Bill and Betty Shackelford for finding hunt locations and raffle support

George and Bea Case for coordinating the raffle tables and meeting refreshments

Bill and Debbie Green for their work at the finds table and secretarial support

These awards were created in December and deferred until tonight due to the last meeting of the year running longer than expected.

Alan James

We have a "Happy Birthday Cake" to present to Lorrie Sprigg, and thanks to those who provided refreshments for this evening. Let's take a break and vote for the finds of the year and the finds of the month.

Refreshments Break

Alan James

New Members - The club would like to acknowledge our new members

Gerd Schwarzenber

Donald Cole

William and Nancy Rutherford

Bill Shackelford

Raffles

Silver Raffle

Half & Half - David Gray won \$55.50

Nametag - \$30.00, no winner. The member was not present at the meeting.

Alan James

At a future meeting we will be giving away the donated, beach hunting basket to a member that doesn't already have one. We are working on it and will let you know.

Alan James

Club Membership Fees - It is time for renewing the club memberships by payment of annual dues. For new members, an individual membership is \$15 and a family

membership is \$25. For the following years, the membership fee is \$25 per year.

Camp Challenge - The club has been approached to partner with Camp Challenge to provide a "Hunt for Kids", and the preliminary plan is to have two hunts this coming summer. The volunteerism will include one host to assist each participant who uses a wheelchair and a second host to assist with the metal detector and digging. The club would supply the metal detectors for the function.

There will be a meeting on Friday, February 3, 2012 to discuss the idea with Eric Lamoray, State Director. We will give you an update a future meeting regarding the Camp Challenge events.

It is now time to present the Hunter of the Year Awards for 2011.

Winners of the Hunter of the Year Awards

Women's Division

- Third Place - Diane Swaney
- Second Place - Nannette Burdick
- First Place - Lorrie Sprigg

Men's Division

- Third Place - George Case
- Second Place - Rob Hill
- First Place - Bill Green

Congratulations to our winners. The first place member prize is payment of the membership dues for the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Green

Point Standings

| | | | |
|--|----|--------------|---|
| Bill Green | 16 | John Ayers | 1 |
| George Case | 12 | Paul Swaney | 1 |
| Ralph Flippo | 11 | Carol Taylor | 1 |
| Hurley Gashaw | 11 | | |
| Eric Lamoray | 9 | | |
| Steve Meeks | 9 | | |
| Jerry Hitson | 9 | | |
| Jim Burdick | 8 | | |
| Gene Jenkins | 8 | | |
| Lonnie Lytle | 7 | | |
| Scott Jackson | 7 | | |
| Nanette Burdick | 6 | | |
| Diana Swaney | 5 | | |
| Jim Tippitt | 5 | | |
| Doug Prock | 5 | | |
| Lorrie Sprigg | 5 | | |
| Jerry Sprigg | 4 | | |
| Brent Petherick | 3 | | |
| Chuck Hosbein | 2 | | |
| Christine Merriam | 2 | | |
| PUT SOME POINTS ON THE SCORE BOARD AND HAVE FUN | | | |

Finds of the Month

Single Coin

| | | |
|----|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Dave Gascoyne | 1841 dime |
| 2. | Eric Lamoray | 1903 Barber quarter |
| 3. | Diana Swaney | 1950 "Nederlanden" 25 cent |

Group Coins

| | | |
|----|--------------|---|
| 1. | Bill Green | 1,151 pennies, \$2 Canadian coins 4 \$1 coins |
| 2. | Jim Tippitt | No description |
| 3. | Ralph Flippo | 295 pennies, 63 quarters, 81 dimes, 48 nickels, 10 wheaties, 4 tokens |

Single Jewelry

| | | |
|----|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Jim Burdick | Old sapphire/diamond 14kt ring |
| 2. | Jerry Sprigg | Diamond Ring |
| 3. | | To be determined |

Group Jewelry

| | | |
|----|---------------|--|
| 1. | George Case | Rings, necklace, chain, earrings, etc. |
| 2. | Bill Green | Lots of jewelry |
| 3. | Hurley Gashaw | Broach pins, chains etc. |

Single Artifact

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Hurley Gashaw | Swastika/Japanese coin |
| 2. | Bill Green | 1800s antique brass alligator |
| 3. | Dave Gascoyne | 1830s officer's hat button |

Group Artifacts

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Dave Gascoyne | Fort site buttons, musket balls |
| 2. | | To be determined |
| 3. | | To be determined |

Single Odds & Ends

| | | |
|----|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Jerry Hitson | Roper tag |
| 2. | George Case | Bronze Frog |
| 3. | Steve Meeks | 1972 Santa Christmas ornament |

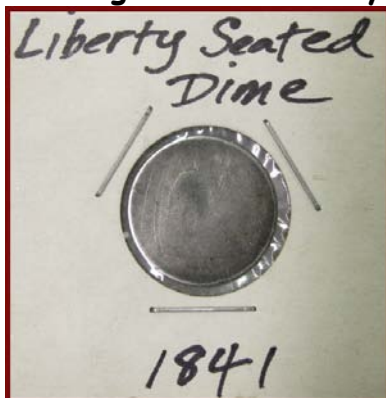
Group Odds & Ends

| | | |
|----|---------------|---|
| 1. | Ralph Flippo | 1943 Dog tag, silver spoons, stainless spoons, knives, fork |
| 2. | Scott Jackson | The "Big Hook" |
| 3. | Bill Green | 56 Keys, cellphone, holder, knives, weights, etc. |

Finds of the Month

Photos courtesy of Rob Loucks

Coin Single- Dave Gascoyne



Coin Group- Bill Green



Jewelry Single- Jim Burdick



Jewelry Group- George Case



Artifact Single- Hurley Gashaw

Sorry No Photo

Artifact Group- Dave Gascoyne

Sorry No Photo

Happy Birthday Betty and Lorrie!!



If you would like to get involved with the club, the CFMDC is actively seeking an interested club member to be the newsletter editor. Anyone interested can contact Jerry Hitson at g8r81@cfl.rr.com or see me at the next club meeting.

Jerry Hitson

[Join Our Group](#)



The CFMDC is now on Facebook!

Click the link above and request to join. If you don't have a Facebook account, sign up, it's easy! The group is open to anyone interested in metal detecting and to network with others and to post pictures of your finds.

Member's Forum

On a past Sunday I had an opportunity to go metal detecting on Daytona Beach for a few hours. The weather was just perfect, not too hot and not too cold, there was even a slight breeze to cool you off. As this is still the off season the beach was not crowded either. I detected near the water line for a few hours and I found almost nothing, a few quarters and some pennies and everything was buried deeply. The tide was starting to come in on me so I shifted my search into the dry sand just before leaving. I got a good signal in the sand! It was a set of someone's house and car keys and it had a brass fob attached with the person's name, address and phone number! When I got home I gave the person a phone call and she explained how losing the keys had really messed up their vacation in December! It had cost them close to three hundred dollars to have a replacement key made for the vehicle so that they could drive home! So a word to the wise, have a set of spare keys available to use whenever you are out and also have a fob on your keys that has some of your contact information, most honest people would try to return your keys to you. Probably key shops could do a fob for you. I know my local Walmart has a dog tag/fob maker and it costs only five dollars to make one, in my opinion money well spent. Some car keys are really expensive to get copies of, especially if they don't have the replacement key information.

Submitted by Doug Melvin

If you have items that you want to buy or sell, go to our "Classified" section of the CFMDC page here:

[CFMDC Classifieds](#)

Treasure hunter finds billion dollar WWII wreck



By Clarke Canfield

A treasure hunter says he has located the wreck of a British merchant ship that was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Cape Cod during World War II while carrying what he claims was a load of platinum bars now worth more than US\$3 billion.

If the claim proves true, it could be one of the richest sunken treasures ever discovered.

But an attorney for the British government expressed doubt the vessel was carrying platinum. And if it was, in fact, laden with precious metals, who owns the hoard could become a matter of international dispute.

Treasure hunter Greg Brooks of Sub Sea Research in Gorham, Maine, announced that a wreck found sitting in 210m of water 80.4km offshore is that of the S.S. Port Nicholson, sunk in 1942. He said he and his crew identified it via the hull number using an underwater camera, and he hopes to begin raising the treasure later this month or in early March with the help of a remotely operated underwater vessel.

"I'm going to get it, one way or another, even if I have to lift the ship out of the water," Brooks said.

The claim should be viewed with skepticism, said Robert F. Marx, an underwater archaeologist, maritime historian and owner of Seven Seas Search and Salvage LLC in Florida. Both an American company and an English company previously went after the contents of the ship years ago and surely retrieved at least a portion, Marx said. The question is how much, if any, platinum is left, he said.

"Every wreck that is lost is the richest wreck lost. Every wreck ever found is the biggest ever found. Every recovery is the biggest ever recovery," Marx said.

Brooks said the Port Nicholson was headed for New York with 71 tons of platinum valued at the time at about US\$53 million when it was sunk in an attack that left six people dead. The platinum was a payment from the Soviet Union to the US for war supplies, Brooks said. The vessel was also carrying gold bullion and diamonds, he said.

Brooks said he located the wreck in 2008 using shipboard sonar but held off announcing the find while he and his business partners obtained salvage rights from a federal judge. Salvage rights are not the same as ownership rights, which are still unsettled.

Britain will wait until salvage operations begin before deciding whether to file a claim on the cargo, said Anthony Shusta, an attorney in Tampa, Fla., who represents the British government. He said it is unclear if the ship was even carrying any platinum.

"We're still researching what was on the vessel," he said. "Our initial research indicated it was mostly machinery and military stores."

The US government has not weighed in on the court case yet, and Brooks said he doubts that will happen, since the Soviets eventually reimbursed Washington for the lost payment.

A US Treasury Department ledger shows that the platinum bars were on board, Brooks said, and his underwater video footage shows a platinum bar surrounded by 30 boxes that he believes hold four to five platinum ingots each. But he has yet to bring up any platinum, saying his underwater vessel needs to be retrofitted to attach lines to the boxes, which would then be hoisted to the surface by winch.

"Of course there are skeptics," he said. "There's skeptics on everything you do."

Maritime law is complicated, and there could be multiple claims on the ship's contents.

After the sinking of the HMS Edinburgh, an English warship carrying Soviet gold bullion as a payment to the allies during World War II, England, the US and the Soviet Union had claims on the sunken treasure, Marx said. A consortium that owned the salvage vessel was given 10 percent of the prize, while the rest was shared by the other parties, he said.

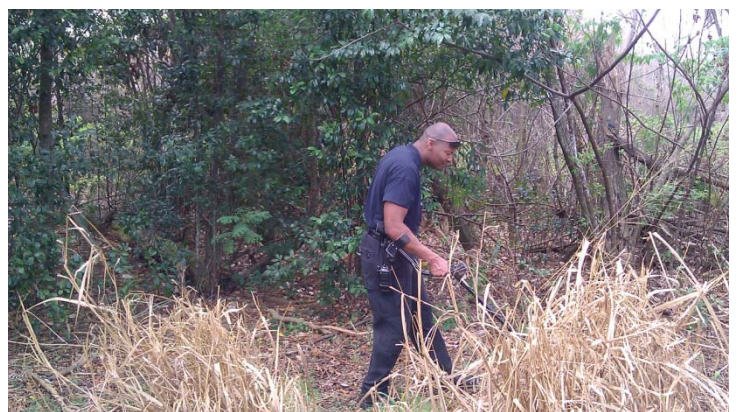
In other big finds, treasure hunter Mel Fisher made international headlines in 1985 when he discovered a US\$450 million mother lode of precious metals and gemstones from a Spanish galleon that went down off Florida in 1622.

In another case, a Tampa exploration company has been ordered by the courts to return \$500 million worth of treasure from a Spanish warship to Spain. The ship was sunk by the British navy during a battle off Portugal in 1804.

Read more: <http://www.3news.co.nz/Treasure-hunter-finds-billion-dollar-WWII-wreck/tabid/417/articleID/241616/Default.aspx#ixzz1IHhZ1LBm>

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OPD – CFMDC Weapons Search



Detective Toyd Montford

