

Club Spotlight

Staten Island History Hunters Metal Detecting Club

Staten Island, NY

Staten Island History Hunters: Detect and Preserve

Founded in 2006, the Staten Island History Hunters (SIHH) Metal Detecting Club proudly stands as New York City's sole metal detecting club. Guided by the motto "Detect and Preserve," SIHH brings together enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds who share a passion for history, discovery, and responsible detecting practices.

The club operates as a non-profit organization, committed not only to the hobby but to preserving the stories buried beneath our feet. Members dedicate themselves to uncovering artifacts and treasures with respect, ensuring that what they find helps tell the larger story of our shared past.

Like many organizations, SIHH faced challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. With in-person gatherings suspended, membership sharply declined, and Zoom meetings failed to capture the camaraderie of the group. Yet, by 2023, the club bounced back with remarkable resilience. Today, the membership roster has grown to more than 65 strong across New York and



At community events, the club introduces youths to metal detecting with this portable metal detecting pit.



Huntmaster Lou DeFeo (with megaphone) watches over the club's "Diggin Big Apple Open Beach Hunt."

New Jersey, men and women, singles, couples, retirees, and families with children, all united by a love of metal detecting.

Over the years, SIHH has earned an excellent reputation in both the metal detecting and historical communities. Members lend their expertise to law enforcement and historical societies when requested, and they frequently assist the public in recovering lost valuables, jewelry, keys, phones, memorabilia, and keepsakes. These services are always offered free of charge, with no expectation of reward. As club members put it, "We do it because it's the right thing to do."

Service to the Community

Many SIHH members generously donate their time to community projects such as park and beach cleanups, and some have even assisted in professional archaeological digs. One member recently donated a significant historical find from 1789 to a local museum, ensuring it could be preserved and shared with the public. The club also gives talks and demonstrations to community groups and has introduced the next generation to the hobby by training Boy Scout troops in metal detecting at a local Scout camp.

Club Life and Monthly Meetings

SIHH meets on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at the New Dorp Moravian Church Parish House in Staten Island. Meetings, which begin at 7:00 p.m., always open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The business portion of the meeting covers minutes, the treasurer's report, old and new business, and the introduction of new members and guests, followed by programs such as guest speakers, demonstrations, or presentations of interest. Members bring in "finds" from the previous month for display and discussion, and a Finds of the Month competition recognizes outstanding recoveries across several categories. Meetings also feature refreshments, social time, and a door prize drawing.

Another longstanding tradition is collecting aluminum pull tabs from soda, soup, and other cans, recovered while detecting. The tabs are recycled, and proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), helping support families while also