

# Metal Detective Monthly

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Newsletter December 2007 Albuquerque Metal Detector Association

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## Swan Song

Yup, this is it!!! My last newsletter. And, quite possibly, everyone in the club's last late newsletter. While I had some high ideas when I first began this endeavor two years ago, I've not produced many newsletters that I felt were really anything to brag about. It would've been good for me to set the bar really high for the next newsletter editor, but I think the next newsletter editors (Terry and Lucille) will provide us with a monthly newsletter of very high standards. In fact, I feel kind of sorry for whoever winds up doing the newsletter after them.

Also, this 'Swan Song' is written as a sort of farewell to my term as president. It has been my habit to begin each year with a "State of the Club" address. While I hope that any future presidents will continue with something along those lines, I'm writing a lot of this column this time to sum up what I think might be the future of the club.

To begin, I must acknowledge my strengths and weaknesses as a leader. In some cases, my behaviors may be perceived as strengths to some and as weaknesses to others. I have little doubt that my rash behavior in certain circumstances may have led to some people not actively participating in the club or dropping out of the club entirely.

Please understand: Two things exemplified in my job show a lot about my nature. In my job (air traffic controller), I spend all day every day making decisions. If I make a bad decision, I have to make several very good decisions in quick succession to prevent disaster. So...most bad decisions can be fixed with sufficient proper actions. Bad decisions made in the club might never be fixed, but rest assured that all the decisions I

made in the club were ones which I thought were for the best at the time. Also, in my job, it can be advantageous to be somewhat brash, vocal and, sometimes, pretty aggressive. While these tendencies lead me to success in my job, I realize that these same tendencies can put some people off. For that I do sincerely apologize. And if any former club participants are reading this, please know that you will not be subjected to my brash leadership style for at least the next year.

For the future of AMDA, it seems to me that 'everything is coming up roses.' I see nothing but good things in the future for us as a club. Just look at what we have beginning in 2008:

1) Cole is undoubtedly going to be a great leader. He is very organized (which in itself is going to be a most welcome change). He considers ideas provided by others and at the same time provides interesting ideas of his own. He's always thorough in all that he does. The greatest thing I see is that he will provide us all with some organized, well thought out, soft spoken leadership. I'm truly looking forward to a year with Cole at the helm.

2) Boy, when Terry and Lucille step up to the plate, they really step up. I was delighted to receive an email from them just today (sent to all club members) reminding us that our dues are due at the next meeting, as well as telling us what program we could look forward to in the January meeting. And talk about organized!!! Wow, everyone at the Christmas party had a chance to see Terry's spreadsheet of his hunts for the special halves – it included details on coins found, jewelry found, special halves found, the works.... And, get this, Lucille has a spreadsheet of all the locations the club has hunted for the last 8 years!!! Between the two of them, they hold the offices of: Vice-President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editors and Finds Judge. Wow! That's quite an undertaking – but I have no doubt that they'll do all these jobs fabulously well.

3) We really have a world-class website. It has drawn attention from several other clubs and magazines dealing with our hobby. It has resources for both our members and for visitors. Dan and I have both received many emails from visitors to our website. Some have since come to our meetings and have become members, others have simply requested information about detecting in New Mexico. Pretty much all of them have nothing but praise for our website. With Mike and Terry both working on it, it can only continue to get better.

4) We once again have a research committee. Mike, Chuck and I have already visited a few interesting sites and are actively working on more. I

have one ready to suggest at the January meeting. With input from club members, maybe we can have several new sites available to us in the next year!

5) We are seeing quite a few volunteers these days. Betty is going to be our new secretary and Cherie will be taking Betty's place at the raffle table. Dwayne is going to help in the Executive Committee.

With all that going on, it's hard not to feel very positive about the future of our club.

As far as my term as president goes, I really have very few regrets. I wish I had been more organized. I wish I had better people skills. Other than those two shortcomings, I'm quite proud of what we were able to do as a club under my leadership. I'm especially proud of this last year. I think we all had a lot of fun and did some different things. (I'll never forget having 20 hunters at one hunt – the meteorite hunt.) But, and this is very important, I didn't do it alone. Which brings me to....

## Now for the “Thank You’s”

Oh, my. Where to begin? I'm fully aware that I will undoubtedly forget someone in this list (I'll surely remember you as soon as this newsletter is emailed!!!). But there are certain ones that I especially want to recognize.

**Bob and Dan:** After Pancho and Tater Mae's untimely departure, these two didn't hesitate for a minute when I asked for their help. Both did an outstanding job and the club is better for their efforts. Thanks guys – you are both my good and dear friends.

**Julie:** Honestly, where would AMDA be without Julie? Anytime there's a gap to be filled, a thankless job to be done, Julie is there to lend a hand. Thank you, Julie.

**Angie:** Although she was with us for only a short time, Angie did an amazing job for the club. She provided us with a delightful annual hunt; and consistently encouraged all of us in her every dealing with the club. I sincerely miss having her here with us. She was quite a breath of fresh air. Thanks, Angie. we'll always look forward to seeing you again.

**Allan and Betty:** Like Julie, Betty is a real asset to the club. Her assistance and generosity have made my job so much easier. Allan, bless his heart, does so many things behind the scenes. While I think he does a lot of it for his beloved Betty, we ALL benefit from his efforts. Allan and Betty, I thank you.

**Gary and Cherie:** I can't put my finger on it exactly, but these two have made worlds of difference for me in my enjoyment of the club. Ever pleasant and upbeat, these two have lifted me up at times when I was at my lowest ebb. Thank you so much, Gary and Cherie, knowing you has been my great pleasure.

**Marty:** Despite our differences, Marty almost always challenged me to become a better leader. His absence has certainly been felt. Thanks, Marty.

**Mike R.:** Although few people can aggravate me more, Mike's encouragement, or perhaps a more accurate description would be "goading" has pushed me to work harder for the club. Thanks, Mike.

I'm sure I missed some, and I'm sure they'll occur to me after it's too late, but those listed above made a big difference for me in my three years as president. Thanks so much to all of you. In helping me, you've certainly helped the club.

## Finds of the Year

Remember those silver round awards I mentioned in the last newsletter? Turns out they weren't that easy to find. But I finally did find some – just today – that I think will be perfect. They're a little more costly than I anticipated and I wanted to check with our new leadership before ordering them, but I'm confident that the recipients will be absolutely delighted. Check the 'minutes' for details of the winners for 2007.

## 2007 Christmas Party

Hmmm... How do I start here??? The Christmas party was interesting. The turnout was relatively small – we missed several members and/or spouses – we especially missed our friends from Amarillo. It was, however, very nice to have Peter and Sheila Humphries (all the way from jolly old England) join our group for this event. Peter even brought some items to share with the group, including some very nice silver rings which he had made. Thanks, Peter! We'll all be looking forward to seeing you again this spring.

Also, I want to apologize for the accommodations. When I called them, they said they'd have a room for us. Little did I realize we'd be sharing that room with everyone else in the place. Plus, I'd have to describe the food we had there as 'less than inspiring'. Hopefully, we can do better next year.

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## **December Minutes**

What minutes??? It was a Christmas party!!! We ate. We talked and laughed. We exchanged gifts. We voted on the Finds of the Year.

The winners are:  
Coins – Robert Wilson  
Jewelry – Terry Ellis  
Artifacts – Robert Wilson

Make sure you visit our website [www.amdaclub.com](http://www.amdaclub.com) and SEE the finds of the year for yourselves. Great job, guys!!!

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# **Treasury Report**

December's treasury report will be either posted on the club's website or presented at the meeting.

## **Hunt Report**

I'm afraid there is nothing to report for the December hunt. It was supposed to be at the Belen dump, but inclement weather intervened and I decided it was best that we cancel. I didn't want to take any chances on anyone getting stuck in near freezing temperatures.

## **Reminders:**

**Aluminum:** Allan Veitch collects aluminum from club members to benefit the Annual Hunt. Please bring your cans and other aluminum scraps in bags to each meeting for Allan (or Betty) to pick up.

**Center use:** Please remember to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the center in exchange for our use of the facility.

## **Purpose of our club:**

Maintain and support a club to further the interests of its members in historic artifacts. Compile, record and preserve historic data. Recover lost or hidden relics and artifacts. Provide recreational activity and the companionship of its members. Provide a service to the community in finding lost items of value and importance.

## **Meetings:**

AMDA meets at 6:30 pm the second Tuesday of each month at Los Griegos Center, 1231 Candelaria NW. For more information, call Phillip Chappell at (505)363-4694.

## Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics

1. Never Trespass. Always obtain permission prior to entering private property or mineral claims.
2. Fill all holes. Regardless of location and never dig in a way that will or may damage property.
3. Never Destroy priceless historical or archaeological treasures.
4. Do Not build fires, camp or park in non-designated or restricted areas.
5. Leave all gates and other accesses to land as found.
6. Never Litter. Always pack out what you take in and remove all trash dug in your search.
7. Do Not damage, deface, destroy or vandalize any property (including ghost towns and deserted structures). Never tamper with any equipment at the site.
8. Respect and Uphold all finders, search and salvage agreements.
9. Abide by all laws – national, state, county and local.

ALL METAL DETECTORISTS AND TREASURE HUNTERS ARE JUDGED BY YOUR EXAMPLE. Conduct yourself with courtesy and consideration for others.