

Metal Detective Monthly

Newsletter November 2007 Albuquerque Metal Detector Association

We Have a Winner!!!

For those that have been participating in and/or watching the Special Halves Hunt, I can now announce a winner. Terry Ellis won with a good lead with a total of 13 halves. Up until just a few weeks ago, we were tied at 5 between Dick, Julie and Terry. Chuck assisted me in devising a plan for a tie-breaker. He and I hid a total of 16 halves one snowy Friday afternoon. Four were in Inez park. Of these four, three were wrapped in paper and aluminum foil. (They showed up as zinc pennies on my machine!). Two of the papers gave clues to two other parks – Bianchetti and Luecking North – one paper just said “Close – but no cigar!” The fourth half was left unwrapped and will await some future detectorists. In Bianchetti and Luecking North parks, we hid four halves in each. Two were wrapped in foil and paper and two were planted bare. One of the two wrapped coins in each park directed the finder to the fourth park – McDuffie (commonly known as ‘Hidden’) park. The other wrapped coin also chided, “Close, but no cigar!” At the last park we hid four bare coins rather quickly. By this time it was snowing quite heavily!

I’ll leave it to the participants to give a synopsis of what they found and when. I would like each of the top three participants to give a brief description of their time-line and finds for these last four parks at the Christmas party.

The purpose of this Special Halves Hunt this year was threefold: First, I wanted club members to have something new and different and fun as a club activity. And I wanted it to be something that would test their skills and perseverance, but not cost them a lot of time and travel. Second, I wanted something to encourage our members to visit our club website

more frequently and to post information about their finds while searching for the Special Hunt halves. Last, I wanted to reward those that really hustle when it comes to pursuing this hobby. I firmly believe all three objectives were met.

Of course, having done it once – I would dearly like to see it done again (so I could play this time!) This is just an idea, but I would like to see the winner of each year's Special Hunt be named as chief planter and non-participant for the following year's hunt. I also see that I should have been better about distributing the halves across a broader area – hiding more on the west side and in the smaller communities surrounding us. I'm sure others have ideas as to how we can make the Special Hunt better – that is, if we continue to have one.

Research

As I mentioned in the October newsletter, AMDA's research committee has been resurrected. Right now, it consists of Mike, Chuck and myself, but rest assured we will gladly welcome any input in the form of suggestions, rumors or first-hand knowledge of areas that might become accessible to the club.

The three of us have already got some ideas as to places we might go. Mike and I are going to take my camper to various places in the state to look things over and get the necessary permission to hunt these areas. Although we will try to concentrate our efforts as close to home as possible, some of these areas might require two-day trips.

Just so you'll know, some of our considerations in determining likely hunt sites include population and population density, length of occupation, age of the site, likelihood of making good finds and – certainly - accessibility.

One thing I think I probably should mention is this: You can expect the research committee members to do some metal detecting at any potential sites. This should not be seen as an attempt on our part to beat the club to the best stuff, but just to verify to our satisfaction that there may be items to be found which will justify presenting the sites to the club. I just don't want there to be any misunderstanding when we present our finds to the club. These finds should be interpreted as a very good indicator of the types of items the club as a whole can find when visiting any given site.

Finds of the Year

One of the relatively few regrets I have as outgoing club president is that more recognition was not given to the winners of last year's Find of the Year competition. Let me say that I've always hated the idea of presenting trophies and/or plaques to commemorate such awards. Basically, you are getting just one more item to collect dust in your house. I am delighted to announce that with the unanimous concurrence of the club, we will have a completely different type of award for both this year's and last year's winners.

What I'm hoping for is to find silver rounds with a blank side. On the blank side will be engraved something like:

Find of
The Year
2007

A commemorative of this type will not only have memorial value to the winner, but also represents an item of real intrinsic value. This way, years from now, rather than dusting a plaque or trophy for twenty years and then having it sent to a charity or sold at a garage sale, the winner can exchange it for real money – and if silver continues to rise in value – it could be serious money.

2007 Christmas Party

The Christmas Party for this year will be held at the Hometown Buffet on Eubank just north of Constitution (east side of street). I couldn't find anywhere else in our price range that would reserve us a room and guarantee us a time. I don't think I've been there before. I hope everyone finds it acceptable.

Two important notes – if you have had winning items in any of the Finds of the Month competition for 2007, bring them so we can vote on them for Find of the Year! We will only vote on actual items – no photos!!! So if you won with an item and fail to bring it, sorry! That item won't be considered for Find of the Year.

Second, make sure to bring a \$10 minimum value gift if you plan to participate in the gift exchange. Terry and Lucille will be heading it up again this year. It's almost always a lot of fun (when people play by the rules).

I hope to see everyone there. Fees are \$5 for members on individual memberships for one person, any guests pay full price. \$5 each for two members of family memberships, guests pay full price. Full price for guests is \$10 each. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday night. Plan to be there!!!

November Minutes

Minutes are available on the club website for Members Only:
www.amdaclub.com.

Treasury Report

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

Hunt Report

For this month, the hunt report will be online at the club's website. I would like to apologize to the participants. I really had high hopes for the area we visited, but I think it was a disappointment to most. Well, as they say, "nothing ventured, nothing gained." I hope any future sites I present to the club provide better finds.

Big News!

The editor at Lost Treasures magazine found our website and asked to include an article about us and our website in the Lost Treasure Online Magazine. She said she had been very impressed with our website and liked what she saw going on in our club. This exposure should help lead others to our website and possibly even lead a few future members our way. If you don't already have a subscription to their biweekly newsletter, go to www.losttreasures.com and sign up. The article about AMDA should be sometime in December.

Bragging rights

Once again, I'll have to direct you to the website for this information and the accompanying photographs.

Congratulations, winners!

Winners should be reminded to have their winning entries photographed before the end of each meeting.

Tidbits

Remember that site I had been hoping to get us into where there were meteorites and old homesteads and the owner charged a fee for people metal detecting there? I even suggested that the club pick up part of the tab. Well I finally got hold of the guy, asked a few questions including what price would be paid. Are you ready for this???. His price for hunting his land is:

\$75 per person per day!!!!!!!

I said, "No thanks!"

I have his information if anyone wants it, but this is way too rich for my blood!!!

Phillip

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.