

# Metal Detective Monthly

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Newsletter   October 2007   Albuquerque Metal Detector Association

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## Big Changes Coming in Club Leadership

I'm sure many will be delighted to learn that we are about to enter into a new year of AMDA with entirely different leadership. After discussing the possibilities of disbanding the club both in the last newsletter and at the last club meeting, Terry and Lucille took it upon themselves to contact members in order to find who might be willing to fill the necessary positions. They already had a pretty solid roster by the beginning of the October club hunt. Some of the blanks were 'filled in' between then and now and it looks like AMDA 2008 is pretty much set.

### AMDA 2008 Officers

**President:** Cole Smith

**Vice-president:** Terry Ellis

**Secretary:** Betty Veitch

**Treasurer:** Lucille Ellis

**Raffle:** Cherie Tom

I will be filling Terry's former position in the 3-year executive board position. We will also be needing others in executive board positions. **We are still in desperate need for a Newsletter Editor!!!**

Now I realize that not having an election is not strictly according to the By-Laws, but if anyone wants to compete for any of these positions, I'm sure all involved would be delighted to have the need for an election for various posts. If no one chooses to run against these volunteers, then the officers you see listed above will be our leadership for 2008.

Also, be advised that while I will be taking a break from the central leadership in the club, I still plan to be involved in the club as much as my schedule (and my back) will allow. Also, Mike Reddy has kindly agreed to continue running the website with certain limitations. His current plan is to only add to and/or change the website according to information given him verbatim by the club leadership. We should not view this as a limitation, but rather as an opportunity. Rather than just Mike working to give us a great website, we can all provide input. This last paragraph leads perfectly into my next announcement:

RESURRECTED FUNCTIONS IN THE CLUB: Formerly, one of the club's most important functions was that of a research committee. A good, active research committee finds new and exciting places for the club to go. Mike Reddy was in the club's research committee years ago; and many of the places we enjoy hunting so much now are a direct result of his efforts in that capacity.

The good news is that we are going to once again have a research committee. The committee will consist of Chuck Tessier and me. It is my hope that Mike Reddy will assist and/or lead us to find some new opportunities in our hobby. We would be delighted if others choose to join the research committee and assist the club in this vital effort. This is also where I will make a plea which should be repeated often in next year's newsletters: *If anyone has any information regarding possible future huntsites, please share it with us. If the information is only partial, we will do our best to chase it down and share it with the club.*

This brings me to my next point(s):

First, we were all disappointed 4-5 years ago when detectorists were suddenly barred from practicing our hobby in New Mexico's state parks. (Researching this, I found many states have had this ruling in place for years.) While this restriction prevents us from hunting some great beach areas, I've recently learned that there are many other places available in New Mexico which may offer equal if not better hunting opportunities. Out of the 175 state and national campgrounds located within in our state, I have identified at least 34 which I think might provide detecting opportunities. Several were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps which would date camping at these sites as beginning in the mid-1930s. Others show promise due to their being high-use areas or their being in very close proximity to high-use areas. Still others are located near historically rich areas.

Second, I hope to maximize our involvement with smaller museums. My best estimate is that there are 30-40 small regional museums in New Mexico. I'm very confident that many small museums might work some magic in gaining us access to private lands hitherto closed to us in exchange for samples to display in their collections. While metal detector hobbyists are generally viewed as little more than looters by larger museums, I think we could dramatically change the hobby's image by sharing our finds with the general public through museum collections. Having worked in museums, I know that word gets around – good or bad. If we share some nice specimens with smaller museums, we will make it up in spades in additional hunting sites. I believe this may very well prove itself to be instrumental in regaining club access to some of the state parks.

Third, I used to think that having small subsets of the club going to detect apart from the club was a bad thing – because they weren't sharing their opportunities with the club at large. I've come to understand that oftentimes, only small groups may be permitted to hunt certain areas and so, its better that some may benefit than that all should lose out. The important thing to remember is that every hobbyist, in effect, represents the whole hobby. Those that leave gaping holes, litter, ignore boundaries and detect known historical sites are a detriment to the hobby as a whole and to our club locally in particular.

Lastly, due largely to the actions of insurance companies and lawyers in our society, concerns about being sued are contributing to it becoming more and more difficult to gain permission to hunt on private land. Should our research committee gain permission and then have it turn out badly due to some of our members behaving badly, it will be much more damaging to the club than if that permission had never been gained. I will assure you that if any club member gives our club in particular or the hobby at large a 'black eye' through improper behavior, he or she will not be welcome at any hunts provided by the research committee.

## October's Speaker

Tony Castillo did a GREAT job telling us about wireless headphones at October's meeting! I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm sold on the idea. It sure would be nice to be 'disconnected' from our detectors while in the field. Just think – no more snagging the headphone cords on branches, brush and rocks. For those that didn't take the opportunity to try on the headphones, I can attest to the fact that they are quite probably

the most comfortable headphones I've ever worn. Plus, Tony's research led to finding a way for us to save a lot of money for this great convenience! Thanks again, Tony!

## Special Hunt

Wow! The Special Hunt competition is really heating up! Apparently, after making the last park such a great challenge, the latest park was literally a 'walk in the park' for Terry. He managed to find both special hunt halves within the first two hours!!! I'm now challenged to make another tough one! Terry's accomplishment really tightened the race. Now we have a three-way tie! Dick, Julie and Terry are all tied at 5 special hunt halves!!! As I've noted before, all participants are making some really good finds while searching for the special hunt halves. I'm hoping they'll bring these items to show off.

Score now is: Julie (5), Dick (5), Terry (5), Dan (2), John (2), Jim (2), Mike (1), Regina (1), Bob (1), George (1), and Robert (1).

Don't forget, the winner of this 'competition' will become the owner of a **4-ounce gold-plated silver round** in addition to the other goodies they find while searching!

Please put on the website posting area any finds you make, including interesting finds made while searching for the special halves.

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## October Minutes

Minutes are available on the club website for Members Only:  
[www.amdaclub.com](http://www.amdaclub.com).

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# Treasury Report

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

## October Hunt Report

Good Morning Phillip. Here is my AMDA October Hunt Report.

The hunt was held at an old Tubercularium located in Cedar Crest, NM on 13 Oct 07 (9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

Participating members (13) were: Terry & Lucille Ellis, Marty Hrivnak II, Cole Smith, Dwayne Argaud, John Pinkston, Robert W. Wilson, Sr., Kathryn Hamilton, Dan Salazar, Bob McNicol, Julie King, Chuck Teyssier & Phillip Chappell. Chuck & Phillip did not hunt but took us to the site and showed us where to hunt. Thank You, guys. Fall colors made for a relaxed hunt (at least for me). The weather was perfect.

Finds as follows: **Cole** - 1/2 horseshoe; **Terry** - shells, bullets, 2 1/2 horseshoes; **Lucille** - 2 buttons, light switch (did not metal detect - just looking); **Dwayne** - junk; **Marty** - 1958 silver quarter, 1929 Buffalo nickel, 1988 nickel, 1944 wheatie, 15 burnt pennies, small toy car (neat), toy hammer head, bullets, horseshoe nails, 2 spoons; **JOHN** - 2 "V" nickels (1901 & 1903), 2 wheaties (1919 & 1927S), 2 pennies (1977 & 1967), bullet casings and bullet leads; **Robert** - belt buckle (w/horse design), 2 pennies (1964 & 1966), Harry S. Truman 1945 3rd President gas token, other junk; **Dan** - 1997 dime, 1 burnt penny, 2 bullet shells, 2 bottles, ceramic tea set top; **Bob** - 2 bullets; **Kathryn** - junk; **Julie** - 1981 nickel, lipstick tube, cut metal arrow, ste ak knife, military medals holder, bullet casings.

Even though several of us did not find anything of great value we all enjoyed the day. Thanks to those who participated in this hunt.

\*\*\*\*\*End Report\*\*\*\*\* FOTMJ - Julie

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# **Police Hunt Report**

We were asked by the local authorities to hunt for evidence in a recently revisited 'cold case'. While the hoped-for evidence was not found, all participants enjoyed the camaraderie of a hunt together. We were told to expect another request for our metal detecting expertise in the not too distant future. This is yet another great example of the public service our club is able to offer. Those that participated are truly acting as emissaries for our organization. Good Going!!!

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## **Bragging rights**

Jewelry – Cherie Tom: High School Ring  
Coins – Julie King: 2004 Brazil 10 centine  
Misc. – Robert Wilson: boy scout token

Congratulations, winners!

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

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## **Tidbits**

My home computer system has been having some trials of late. This newsletter will be mailed out from an 'internet café' since our wireless network seems to be kaput. If any have sent emails to me recently, I apologize for not having responded. I will try to get to them as soon as we get our network up and going again. Thanks for your patience.

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.