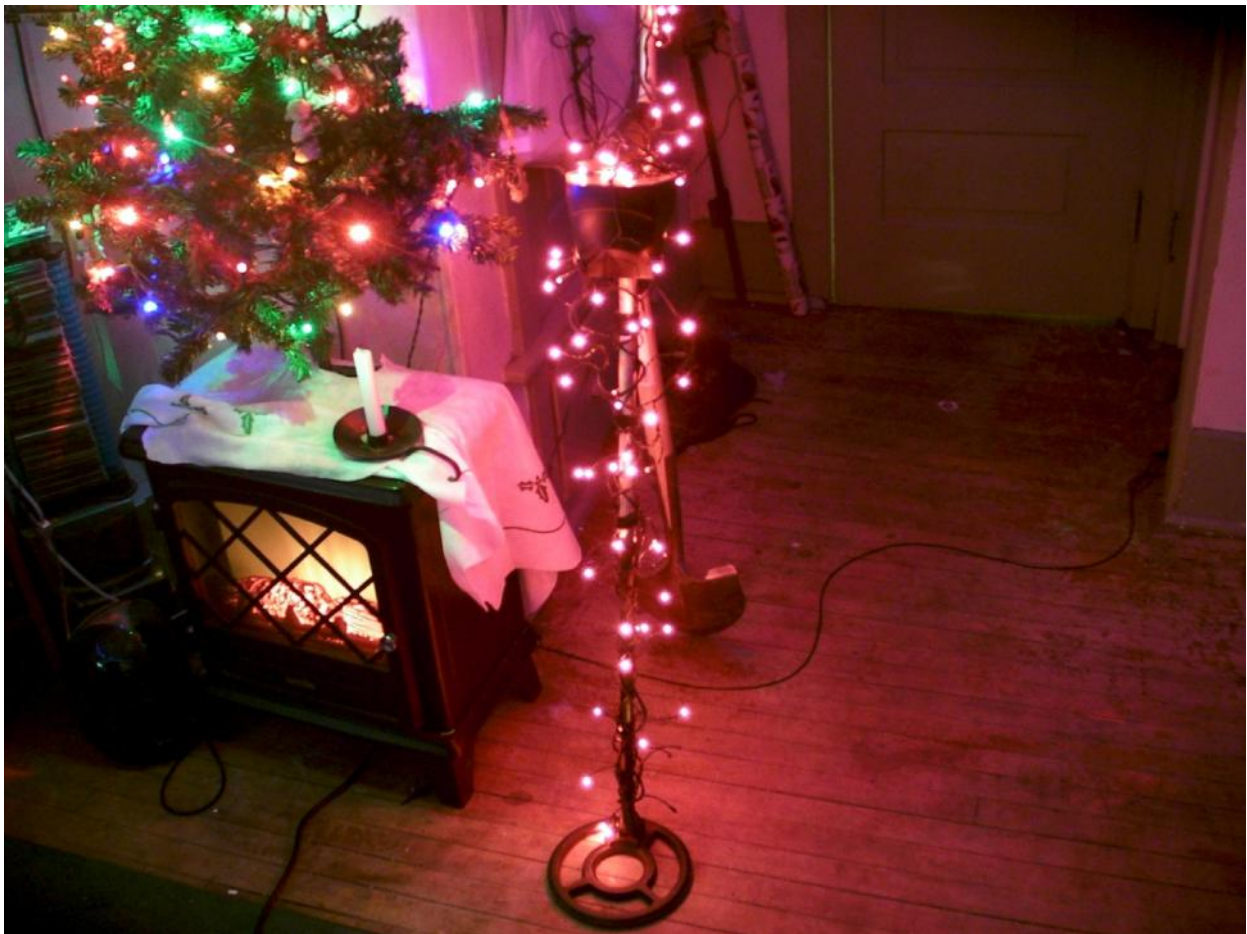


CALGARY METAL DETECTING CLUB

THE BUZZER

Volume 46 – issue 1 January 2017

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR from the CMDC



The Buzzer is published by and for the membership of the CMDC -
Canada's oldest Active Metal Detecting Club.

Visit us on the internet @ www.cmdc.org.



All the Best for the
2017 Metal Detecting Season!

Well we've reached the end of another metal detecting year. Although some of us will be traveling to warmer places to detect, the rest of us will only be able to dream and plan for next spring.

So after the Holidays are over and the weather is still too chilly for detecting we can do some research on a few places we thought of this summer but didn't have time to check out.

Our hope is for every CMDC member and their families to have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year, full of many recovered treasures and great memories.

❄️❄️ Off-Season CMDC Themes ❄️❄️

The Calgary Metal Detecting season may be ending - although there are a few hardy souls that enjoy the detecting hobby every month of the year - even in the **winter**. Don't forget that our club continues to meet during the winter months, to share coffee and conversation about this hobby we all love.

From December until March we give up on "Finds of the Month." Instead the CMDC has monthly themes, and club members display items found through-out the entire year in that fall into that category:

DECEMBER ~ MILITARIA MONTH – Bring any items found during the year that have a military theme. It could be a cap-badge or military button – or that sweetheart bracelet or cigarette lighter with a military emblem on the side. Bring it on in.

JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH – Bring those great toys recovered this year. They can be modern or ancient. In the past we have had cast iron horses, lead soldiers, cracker jack toys, up to modern "hot-wheels". We are talking childhood related items from any era.

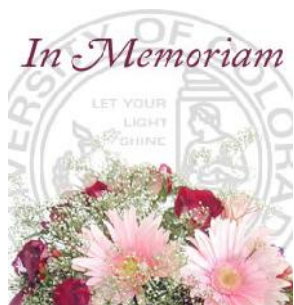
FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH – Whatever your favourite finds were during the year, bring them on in and share them with the group. Some people will bring one or two special items, others will bring a box-full – it is all up to you.

MARCH ~ FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING - March is reserved for voting of Finds of the Year. Each club member is entitled to choose one item for Club "Find of the Year" in the four basic categories of Relic, Trinket, Treasure, and Coin. We display them in March, when club members make their choice, and vote for Best Finds of the Year. The winners will be announced and prizes presented at our April awards banquet.

RIP - Fred Van Vaals



Born November 18, 1929,
Died October 27, 2016.



We have some very sad news. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club lost one of its senior members in October. Fred Van Vaals passed away on October 27th, 2016 - just a few weeks short of his 87th birthday. Fred was an energetic and passionate metal detectorist, and eagerly shared knowledge with newcomers to the hobby.

We will miss Fred at the Calgary Metal Detecting Club - Fred was a true gentleman. He was always thrilled to talk about the hobby, and so pleased when he was able to display something newly found, or a unique discovery he had purchased from the flea-market. His passion for the hobby of metal detecting and his willingness to help out newcomers to the hobby, were very appreciated at the CMDC.

Fred is survived by two brothers, John and Jack, three children Harry, Jeannie, and Kevin, along with eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

If any club members (past or present) want to leave expressions of condolence for Fred's family, you may leave messages on his obituary site at on the Choice Memorial website @ choicememorial.com.

CMDC Member Tributes

Brett Buchan - Many times had the chance to sit and talk with Fred. No story was the same, and everyone more interesting. It was like listening to the old radio broadcasts where I looked forward till next meeting to hear the next chapter. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Jerry Leussink - I had the chance to chat with Fred on more than a few occasions & always enjoyed his stories & insights!

Clayton Blancher - Fred always had a smile on his face and passionate about the hobby. We will miss you Fred.

Dale Morasch - I want to say Sorry Fred is no longer with us. I sat beside him at many meetings. His hearing was fading but he always had stories to tell, and brought something with him to show people. He liked the meetings and I liked sitting beside him.

Gunter Pusch - I remember Fred well. He managed to drive himself to the Sundre hunt not that long ago & still participate. Always a great story teller at meetings too. He will be missed

Ken Kittlitz - sad to hear of Fred's passing. He'd been a member for many years, and was always cheerful regardless of his health concerns.

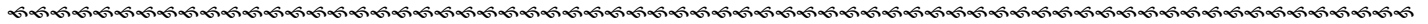
Tracy Neal - I saw Fred about a week and a half ago outside of a Dairy Queen. I didn't stop him because he was deep in conversation with someone. He looked to be in fine fettle though, it must have been sudden. We can all hope for sudden but I'll miss his stories about digging bullets out of the battle site at Batoche.

Jeff Buchan - Will miss digging with you, a history book that I never got to finish and probably never could have.

Fred Van Vaal - A Favourite Find

CMDC members know that Fred Van Vaals was an enthusiastic detectorist. He came out to club hunts whenever he could. For the last few years of his life, Fred always wore one of his favourite finds, which was a sterling silver ring that was recovered at a CMDC club hunt. This ring was hand-forged by an British Columbia artisan, and had a beautiful West Coast Native design.

CMDC member, Jose Chong, wrote a story about the hunt where Fred recovered that ring. It was at a club hunt in June of 2013. I have reposted that article in the Buzzer this month, in Fred's memory.



SILVER RING RE-RECOVERY

By Jose Chong

At the June 29th, 2013, the CMDC Club Hunt was held. There were a nice selection of club members and guests hunting. The club hunt was held in a park in the community of upper Mount Royal, and there were 22 hunters present, with a very nice mixture of ages - all eager to get some good findings.



Jose Chong is a long-time member of the CMDC. Jose wrote the original story of Fred's lost ring and how it was found, but his story was edited slightly to include details about the June 2013 CMDC Club Hunt.



The youngest member present (7 years old) was keen and always following his dad wherever the coil was leading them to. Bob C. and his son, Sam, had a great system going - the Dad swings the coil and the kid digs up the treasure - Team Spirit.

On the other side of the coin - We had one of the senior members, Fred Van Vaals (84 years old), in the hunt. I'm glad to see how the people are hooked to the metal detecting hobby. It's not really a sport, as such - but at least is an outdoor activity. Somehow he managed to bend down to dig what the coil asked for. For one target he dug and dug and nothing was showing up, but the coil was insisting there were some goodies down there.

After digging 8"~9" inches down, Fred Van Vaals was finally rewarded with a beautiful silver ring with a Artisan worked West-Coast Native design. He proudly showed his ring to the other hunters around the area. After some pictures were taken, the ring was mysteriously lost. Other detectorists went back to the area that Fred had been hunting in, and tried to swing their coil to help to him locate his missing ring. All their efforts did not succeed. They decided to go for the Club-Hunt prize distribution, and then to help Fred search for the ring later on.

Before leaving for the after hunt ring-hunt, one of the other hunters decided to use his pinpointer on Fred to see if the ring might have been moved to one of his other pockets. He started with his left pocket and all the coins were emptied from the pocket, but there was no ring. After the coins were emptied from the right pocket, the pinpointer was still beeping. So Fred put his hand in the small pocket at the top of his jeans and BINGO! The ring was there, and no further search was needed. Fred's beautiful silver ring had been re-recovered.

It was a great day for a hunt - pleasant and warm, with enough dampness in the ground for excellent conductivity. Fred Van Vaal's silver ring won for Best Treasure of the club hunt. Other cool finds were a 1907 Indian Head penny, a few silver coins, and 2 other silver rings. Sam C., the youngest hunter at the club hunt, was delighted when he went home with a found toonie to spend, and won the Best Trinket prize for his recovered dog tag.

Blast from the Past - A Winter Hunt

This blast from the past article was originally written for the January 1981 publication of the CMDC Newsletter, and was about a winter hunt by two of the early members of the Calgary Metal Detecting community, Ralph Byer, and Udo Linnemoller. The Hunt took place while the club was still known as the "Foothills Treasure and Relic Hunters". Udo Linnemoller was the president in 1981.

Hitting Pay Dirt - 1981

Actually a better title could be found for this item of good news, but let's leave it at that.

A married couple were driving to Banff, and on the way, the lady removed her rings and placed them on her fur coat while she was applying hand cream to her hands. She forgot to replace her rings. Arriving at Banff, she got out of the car, and put on her fur coat. Needless to say, the rings were lost in the snow. These were not run of the mill rings. estate and insurance value was \$31,000.00. The Replacement value estimate was approximate to \$60,000.00. (2016 Note - with inflation, the current value would approximate \$185,000.00).

Somewhere along the line they found out that Ralph Byer is a treasure hunter and contacted him. Ralph contacted Udo Linnemoller. Together they went to Banff on December 23rd - no luck. They returned on December 24th - no luck.

Up to this point they had been guided by the RCMP to look in front of the Post Office. On December 31st they returned again, accompanied by the ring owner, who directed them to the opposite side of the street. On this date they were successful in the recovery of the lost items. One can imagine their elation and jubilation after three days of hunting!

One ring is described as a very thin band of white gold containing a rectangular 3 carat diamond, and 2 one carat heart shaped diamonds on the shoulders - insurance value of \$30,000.00. The second ring was 18K yellow gold, 5 bands fastened together with an opal and emerald setting and 2 one carat diamonds on the shoulders, with an insurance value of \$1,000.00. The reward offered and expected to be received from the Insurance Company is 10% of these values.

This hunt was carried out under extreme difficulties, winter weather - on pavement - in ice and snow. Both machines (Garrett's) were being operated in non-discrimination, so they were chopping everything out of the ice - many items such as bobby pins, tin foil, thumb tacks, etc, etc. The street had also been snow-plowed, and a snow removal program carried out. Still, they persevered, and their perseverance paid off, thus the title "Hitting Pay Dirt".

The detectorist who got his coil over the top of the rings first was Ralph Byer.



Found Memories

I first used this story in the January 2013 issue of the Buzzer. It is one of my favorite types of metal detecting stories, of a recovered sentimental item that had great meaning for the hunter's grandmother. See the bottom of the article for where you can read this, and more great metal detecting articles.

"My single greatest find was a gift back in time to my grandmother Cecelia. I found it on her 80th birthday, not knowing the value at the time. We had a party for her on the Du Bay lake shore.

This tract of land has been in our family for generations. A site full of past memories in the form of detected relics, it has produced numerous great finds such as Barber coins, Shield nickels, plus an 1863 'Navy' token, but none greater than the one I found that day.

When the picnic lunch had settled, I started off to go detecting. Grandma sat on the picnic bench, listening to the birds and watching in amazement at the new technology and what it could unearth. A good signal sounded off about 10' in front of her. She watched me dig and bring to light a beautiful costume-style pearl brooch. I then brought it over for her to examine more closely. She looked at it with a bewildered gaze. I mentioned that it must have been lost by someone in the family years ago. I watched her face change from a puzzled look to tears flowing from her eyes. 'What is it grandma?' She said it belonged to her mother.

The 70-some years of being in the soil had taken its toll and changed its appearance, but she knew what it was. She remembered when she was a little girl, holding her mother's hand and looking up and seeing the same brooch shining in the sun. She then proceeded to pick it up and pin it to her pretty pink dress. It meant so much to her that she didn't even bother cleaning the dirt from it before putting it on. It was a birthday gift no amount of money could buy. Grandma is above us now, but has left behind the true meaning of family for us to carry on. The costume brooch is of no monetary value, but is truly my greatest find ever!

This great Recovery story is from a 2002 American Metal Detecting newsletter. It seems to promote some of the best parts of our hobby. It was written by Steve Livernash, of Wisconsin

Metal Detecting Humor

SIGNS THAT YOU NEED TO GO TO METAL DETECTORS ANONYMOUS

1. All of your pants have grass stains on the knees
2. Anytime you are walking, you look at the ground -- even indoors
3. When you are in church and the minister says, "Please be seated," You respond with "Amen, brother. Or at least a barber."
4. When using your weed whacker, you're concerned about your "sweep speed."
5. If you roll over in bed, you may bend one of your detectors.
6. Eveready and Duracell send you birthday and Christmas cards every year.
7. You treat all strangers as if they own a house from 1743.
8. Your trash cans are full of pull tabs, bullets and nails -- but you don't drink, hunt or do carpentry.
9. Your clad finds pay for a good dinner for you and your spouse at least twice a year.
10. You ask your children's friends if they live in an old house.

Metal Detecting Tips

This small collection of tips is from the tomstreasures website @ tomstreasures.com. It is only a small portion of the wealth of information available on that site.

Here's a tip that seems to be successful in finding Jewellery. Find an area with a lot of clad coins and clear the high tones out. While clearing the high tones, mark the mid-to-low tones with poker chips, then go back and clear the low tones. You may find a lot of trash but you do get nickels and rings this way. The person who shared this tip found \$20.00 in coins and 2 rings in a 20'x20ft area in three hours at a local high school using this method. Golf tees can be used instead of poker chips, and won't move once stuck in where a target might be. Note that after you have used this method, scanning the area again may produce older/deeper finds.

When you are hunting an old home, try to find a tree with growth scars from having a clothes line attached. Then figure where the clothes line ran. Go slow on all metal mode under the old clothes line area. many coins/jewelry are left in the pockets, and make it through the wash to the clothes line where the wind shakes them out on the ground. also, if there is an old wringer type washer on an old porch check around the washer. they often did their laundry on the porch and let the wash water run out on the ground beside the porch, along with whatever was in the washer.

When learning your machine, you can make "test cards" . Cut out of white cardboard 2 inch squares. Tape on different targets, like a pull tab, iron nail, foil, newer penny, pure copper penny (before 1996), nickel, dime, quarter and a half dollar. They are also great tools for learning as you can place them on the lawn and practice finding them by sounds and also finding the X , correct area to dig. Have someone lay them out face down when your eyes are closed. Then try to identify them by the sounds or the read out on your detector.

If you find a ring, try to clean it a bit, and check carefully to see if it might have lost a stone. If it has, the gemstone may be in the plug, or still in the hole. Some hunters carry a small sieve, or a bit of screening. If the ring appears to have lost a stone, they sift through the soil to be sure they haven't missed a valuable part of their treasure.

Here's a trick that will make your detector's standard loop size more versatile when hunting trashy "hunted out" park areas while using a 8" to 9.5" size loop. When you hit a trashy area, raise your loop a couple of inches off the ground and scan the area again. This will narrow the pattern that your search coil sends into the ground, only allowing it to "see" a much smaller area (depending on how far you hold the coil away). This enables your deep seeking loop to act much like the smaller coil, giving you greater separation in areas of high trash (that can "mask" valuable targets), yet allows you to find the deep signals when conditions permit. Your detector's loop sends a signal into the ground much like the shape of a funnel. This is also why overlapping the passes you make with your loop is critical when detecting those very deep signals.

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers



LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store which is located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You have to enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room.

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The CMDC's yearly dues are:

In-town membership :	\$25.00
Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$40.00

Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)
 c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE
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Do you have an interesting story, idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in "The Buzzer".

Write it down and email it to kempp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.
