

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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A few hardy souls are out finding treasure during the winter season.
Don't forget that the CMDC will continue to meet
the first Tuesday of every month, including winter.



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.

Ken Kittlitz Story

BUZZER CONTEST WINNER 2018

Our Buzzer Contest for December 2018 was won by CMDC member, Ken Kittlitz. Ken sent in a story about the amazing ring recovery he made while vacationing in Waikiki last year. This find was a very nice ending to Ken's holiday in Hawaii. Some of you may remember when Ken posted this find on the Facebook group page. While Ken was enjoying a vacation in January of 2018, he managed to hit the beach for a few days of detecting. One of the best finds he made was a gold/platinum ring, which ended up being worth over \$10,000.

A VACATION FINALE

It was our last morning in Honolulu. We'd been here ten days, and every morning I'd be out on the beach by sunrise, looking for treasure. Generally hunting for a couple of hours, I'd recovered a couple of costume jewelry items and some clad. The Waikiki beaches are heavily hunted – I'd often see one or two other Treasure Hunters out there – so I wasn't that surprised by the meagre finds.



So far, the only real thrill had come shortly after 8am on January 13th, when my phone went berserk with the now-infamous alert about an incoming ballistic missile. I was a good 30 minutes away from the condo and thus very glad that it turned out to be a false alarm!

Now our holiday was almost over. We had to vacate the condo by 11am, so I wouldn't have that much time to hunt. Before heading out, I joked to my fiancée that I'd do my best to find her a real engagement ring – she'd decided that the pendant with a coin from a Spanish shipwreck I'd given her was just a placeholder.

I decided to head to a beach where I'd found the occasional crusty nickel, since that suggested that other hunters might be passing over the low conductivity targets. A slim hope, but one never knows... I had my discrimination set between Iron and Foil so as not to miss small jewelry. Of course, I was also "not missing" a good deal of trash, but that's unavoidable.

After hunting for about half an hour, my only finds of note were one quarter and a bottle opener. Then I got a nice signal that disappeared if the discrimination was increased above Foil. Could be promising! Only one scoop was needed to recover the target and I watched the sand sift out to reveal... *a ring.*



I'm no expert, but I had a pretty good idea that this ring was valuable. It had three diamonds that looked plausibly real; the band looked like a mix of gold and some other metal. Elated, I quickly put it in my finds pouch and decided that this was a good time to conclude the hunt. My fiancée was indeed surprised when I returned to the condo and showed her what I'd found.

Ken Kitlitz "A Vacation Finale" (continued)

We decided to have the ring appraised, but it took us a couple of months after getting home to get around to it. Though hopeful, we braced ourselves for disappointment. Luckily, that was not to be. Not only were the diamonds real, they were of good quality and the mysterious non-gold metal in the band turned out to be platinum. The real shock was the value. For insurance purposes, the ring was appraised at \$12,600 (!).

That's by far the most valuable item I've found in many years of metal-detecting, and makes all the trash recoveries seem worthwhile, or at least less painful. My fiancée suggested that the diamonds in a new setting might make a good engagement ring, but I decided that I'd like to keep the ring as is, since it's a once in a lifetime find. Of course, this means I'll have to buy a completely new engagement ring for her, but I'm sure that won't be a tough sell!

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## ❄️❄️ Off-Season CMDC Themes ❄️❄️

During the winter, the CMDC has monthly themes for displaying the years finds. Here is a small reminder of the upcoming "Winter Themes". Bring any items you have to the meeting to share.

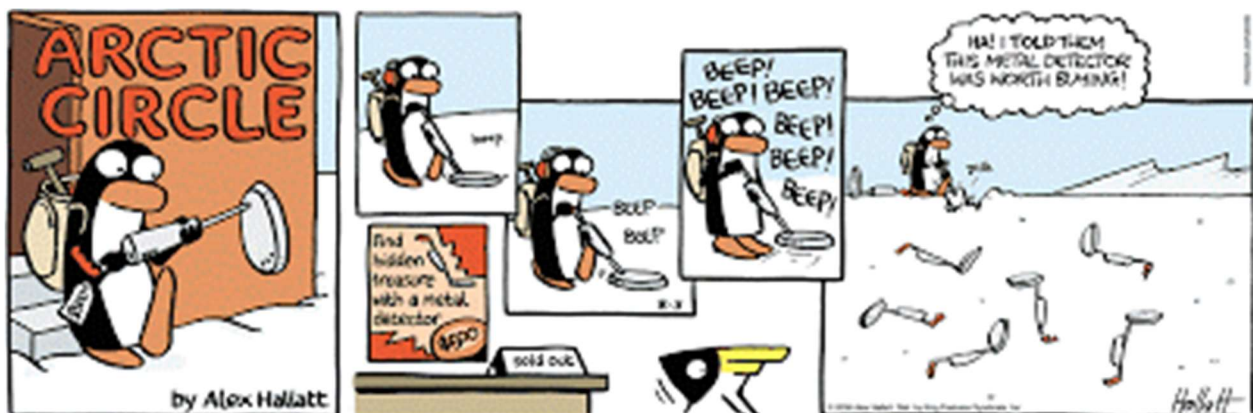
**JANUARY ~ TOYS MONTH** – Bring all those great toys discovered through-out the year, from any era.

**FEBRUARY ~ SHOW AND TELL MONTH** – Whatever your favourite finds were during the year, bring them on in and share them with the group.

**MARCH ~ FINDS OF THE YEAR VOTING** - March is reserved for voting of Finds of the Year. Each club member is entitled to choose their Best Find during the year to display in each of the four categories of Relic, Treasure, Coin and Miscellaneous.

**APRIL ~ ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET** - The Finds of the Year voted for at the March meeting are displayed, and prizes awarded at our April awards banquet.

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UK Detectorists called “Unsung Heroes of Heritage”

A missing gold finial from the Sedgeford torc, excavated almost in its entirety more than 40 years ago, and a stash of Viking silver bracelets that may have helped finance an attack on Dublin were among a glittering hoard of treasure disclosed in January 2007, the discovery of amateurs and their metal detectors. British culture minister, David Lammy, called metal detectorists "the unsung heroes of the UK's heritage", a phrase that will cause a sharp intake of breath among some archaeologists who still regard them as little better than legalised looters.

However, in most parts of the UK a truce is in place, with archaeologists and hobbyists working together, a code of conduct agreed by both sides. The amateurs, in fact, are often called in to help at excavation sites, valued for their equipment and expertise at telling a buried coin from a can ring-pull. The outcome has been a spectacular increase in reported finds, with finds of "treasure", gold and silver, and bronze hoards - which, by law, must be reported. "We have a situation without parallel in Europe," said Neil MacGregor, director of the British Museum, which reported the finds. "Without doubt these finds are rewriting history."

It is the less valuable finds which often put flesh on the bones of history for archaeologists. A beautiful little bronze dog, dating from the 4th century and still shiny from years of being stroked, was found by Alan Rowe, a children's books illustrator, who relaxes by taking his metal detector out into the fields near his home on the Isle of Wight.

The Viking silver, made up of a twisted silver rod, 21 bracelets, and a single heavy silver ingot, was found in the remains of a battered lead box. Steve Reynoldson, who discovered it in a field in Cheshire, had been at the weekend rally of a metal detecting club, on land that had yielded nothing more exciting than a few medieval pennies. He found scraps of lead about a foot below the turf. The bracelets so closely resemble silver items from the spectacular Cuerdale Viking hoard - 8,600 pieces found by workmen near Preston in 1840 and now in the British Museum - that tests will be done to see if they came from the same workshop.

The famous Sedgeford torc, found in 1965, has now been reunited with its lost part, thanks again to the work of amateur detectorists. The torc was lost in equally interesting times, with the Romans on the doorstep and rival local and invading tribes jostling for power in East Anglia. A heavy Iron Age necklace made about 2,100 years ago, of 25 metres of twisted gold and silver alloy wire, the torc had been missing one of its beautifully decorated finials - until Easter 2004 when Steve Hammond, out walking with a metal detector, found it, about 400 metres from the site of the necklace itself.

This article (in a larger version) was printed in the UK newspaper "the Guardian" in January of 2009.

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This article was written in 2009. Since that time many more historical finds were discovered by Metal Detecting Hobbyists in Britain – who reported their finds to the authorities. These finds include multiple Roman hoards and artifacts. Notable hobbyist finds include the recovery of 5 iron-age gold torc necklaces found near Stirling in Scotland, the famous Staffordshire Hoard, and the recovery of a writing stylus in Lincolnshire.

Some of these finds have had far-reaching impacts and could re-write what British Historians know about previous eras of life in the UK. The recovery of the Stirling gold torcs lead to an archaeological dig, uncovering the remnants of an ancient wooden roundhouse, and an unknown iron age village. This site also revealed unexpected trading links with other Iron Age peoples in mainland Europe. The 8<sup>th</sup> century writing stylus lead to the excavation of a previously unknown middle Saxon village, which is suspected to have been a trade center.

While some archeologists will always view metal detectorists as the enemy, others welcome their discoveries, and believe that they are a boon to history. Some American archaeological digs look at detecting as another tool for recovering history. One Connecticut historical site welcomes local hobbyists. Pequot area museum curator Dr. McBride believes that without the local detectorists they would not have recovered half the artifacts in their museum.

# Using Google Maps in Metal Detecting

By Peggy Kemp

I suspect that most of you are already using Google Maps, although it may just be to locate an address you need, or to get directions. However, have you considered using the program to assist you in your hobby as a detectorist? If not, you may want to experiment, and learn some of its secrets.

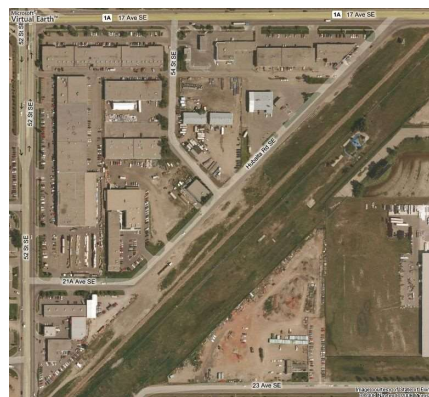
One feature I like is the "street view". It gives the ability to toggle between the satellite, or map - and then take a look at the same area from the ground. In many instances it will save you valuable time. The program can also give you directions to get to the area you have decided to hunt. You can also choose street views from the Google Maps past (as long as google has been providing the service) - some going back as far as 2007.

I experimented recently using Google Maps with a few parks around my area and was able to see raised ground in a large oval in the park when using the satellite view. I recognized the old "berm style" skating rink layout - I know that particular feature dates a park to the late 1940s or early 1960s. I then used the "street view" feature of Google Maps, and was able to see what the park looked like today, to look for the oldest houses, and biggest trees, and to plan my best starting point for that park. Many features can be seen by satellite, including slight disturbances, old foundations, or trees that look older than the surround areas. All of these are features that are worth taking note of.

When you have available historical aerial photographs, you can see changes that have happened to a park over time - or not. I remember being amazed at a modern satellite photo of a park in NW Calgary - and noting a path that cut kitty corner from one end to the other. Research showed the same path was still in use via a historical aerial photo taken 60 years prior. That is something to make note of and hunt around.

Another way to use Google Maps is to compare the satellite and Street view imagery with "old" historical maps. Many community histories will have a map of older neighborhoods, and if you are lucky - you may even have access to some of the old railway maps that date back to the early part of the century. I think the library may have a copy of those. If you can identify a feature on the maps, you can often exactly pinpoint the same area using the Google program, and find out if the locations are now considered a "public area".

You may remember my story a while back about locating the Hubalta Railway Station using Aerial photography. You can see the article in the July 2014 Buzzer, if you don't recall it. I used the aerial photos from the mid-1920s, and then used the Google Map site to see what the location looked like in a modern satellite image.



These two images show the Hubalta Site, one photo taken in 1926 and the other is a satellite image retrieved using a Mapping Program in 2009.

If you are not familiar with the mapping program, and all that it offers, be sure to check it out. It's free, and you will be amazed at all the many features available to help the detectorist.

## WINTERING THE HOBBY

Now that winter is here, most of us aren't able to pursue our hobby as much as we would like. Even though several of CMDC members have taken time out of their busy lives to locate a missing ring, pendant, or set of keys lost in the snow - sometimes it is hard to face detecting in cold weather. In Calgary, we are fortunate enough to get a nice "chinook" or a few warm sunny days, but for many of us our hobby is on hiatus. There are still all sorts of things we can do during winter to prepare for our hobby to resume.

As you drive around this winter - watch for places where people congregate. Sledding hills, ice skating parties, caroling concerts and dog parks are all places where objects might be lost during the winter. An item dropped into snow will leave little trace of where it fell. Even if you can't get out right now - If you note some place where people are hanging out during winter, you can go back and detect at the first thaw.

Winter leaves us time to research. Take the time to check out early community newspapers, or read through books on local history. Research can reveal gathering places from the past the might have finds waiting for recovery. Newspaper stories about concerts or fetes held in unexpected locations could provide a new hunt-site. Stories about missing money or jewellery from crimes may give us new search area ideas, although you want to remember that "solved" crimes / recovered items might not make much of a splash in the news. The loss is often far more newsworthy than the return. You can also check the old classified ads - especially the "lost and found" section. In less cynical times people would place ads for valuable lost items, including the suspected location of that loss.

When looking through the old newspapers, watch for notices of old schools, hospitals and other public places being torn down for development, or of land donated to the city for a park. An old college campus that is now a housing development will still yield objects from the days of academia. Construction crews were not so diligent about removing old soil in the early part of the last century - they just pushed it around and leveled it out. The area might be trashy with nails from the old buildings, but it is likely that some good finds are waiting under the earth. Winter research leaves us more time to play in the summer.

Don't hate winter. Enjoy it and use it to your advantage. Remember the CMDC still meets during the winter. Its a great time to get together and talk about our hobby. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

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Asking Permission might be safer than asking forgiveness

Winter Phone Recovery

Chris Wong was having a blast skiing at the Stratton Ski Resort in Vermont in winter Of 2014. He was going down a difficult run when a mogul sent him flipping into the snow. Unfortunately, Chris had forgotten to zip up one of the pockets on his ski-jacket. Of course, it was the one with his iPhone in it. The iPhone flew out of the open pocket, and disappeared into the snow.

Chris Wong searched the whole area by hand for most of the reset of the day. The next day he returned to the ski-resort and searched the area again. Faced with the prospect of having to buy a new iPhone, Wong did some research, and thought that he might be able to find his phone using a metal detector. Chris purchased a lower-end Garrett from Amazon and headed back to Stratton Ski Resort the following weekend. Everyone was telling me I was crazy, so I made sure everything was on GoPro," Wong said. His friends laughed, and gave him 100-to-1 odds of finding the iPhone. Even on the resulting YouTube video, Chris Wong's friends said they thought this was a lost cause.

Chris went up the hill with the metal detector, and skied to the area where the mishap took place. He was detecting less than half an hour, when, the metal detector sounded clearly, and Wong started digging through the snow. Chris Wong found his missing phone. He was delighted. In the lift line, someone saw his metal detector and asked if he had lost a diamond ring, to which Wong replied, "I found my iPhone. ... Everyone has been doubting me."

Wong later put the phone in a bag of rice, and the next day charged, and started the phone. The phone booted up, much to the disbelief of everyone, especially after being in the snow for over a week. Wong posted the message he took away from this experience on social media, which was "I hope to use this as my life lesson to never give up." The other lesson learned is: Make sure all your jacket pockets are zipped up before skiing.

Snowbank Ring Rescue

When winter hits, there are many calls for ring recoveries, and rings will slip off when your hands are cold. Dan Roekle of Madison, WI gets many calls in the winter. This is one of his favourite returns.

John had been playing in the snow with his dog. He was certain that he was wearing his wedding band earlier in the day but could not be positive. You see, John had been playing in the yard with his guide dog. He was blind. John was so upset at losing his wedding ring that his wife, Julia, went out into the snow with a flashlight, looking all around the area of the footprints in the snow. She searched for hours that night, and the next day, but could not find the missing ring. Julia assured John that their marriage wasn't just about the ring, but he insisted that it represented their wedding vows.



Julia and John thought about renting a metal detector, but instead decided the better choice was to contact a local detectorist who had made the news for searching a motor vehicle accident site for a widow to locate her late husband's missing wedding ring, successfully. Dan Roekle and his children came over to look for John's ring. It was already dark, but they were willing to give it a shot.

John's wife realized that this might be their last chance, as a blizzard was due within the day. It was almost certain that the storm would bring fresh snow, obliterating any tracks of where John and his dog had been. Dan started swinging. He'd been guiding the detector over the ground for less than 15 minutes when Dan heard a tone with a reading in the range of the test ring. "I think We've found it," Dan said with certainty. You could almost hear the gasping of all the frozen breaths. Dan's son knelt in the spot where the detector was focused, and used the pin pointer to zero-in on the precise location of the ring. They dug through the snow and ice, and within moments John's missing wedding ring was discovered – right where Julia had spent all those hours searching through the snow. John and Julia were both were delighted to have the ring back in its proper place, and very thankful to Dan Roekle for taking the time to help them.

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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