

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

Volume 50 – issue 1 January 2021

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Metal Detecting - Not just a summer hobby

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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](http://www.cmdc.org).

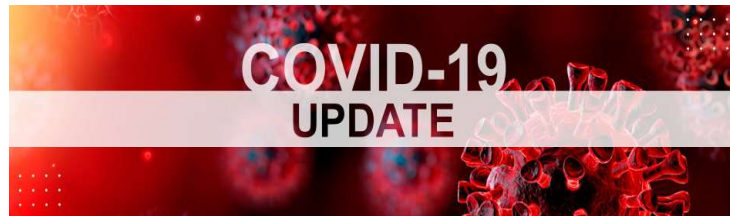


Happy New Year, and All the Best for the  
2021 Metal Detecting Season!

## *Best Wishes for 2021 from the CMDC!*

We've reached the end of another metal detecting year. 2020 was one of the weirdest years the club has experienced, with Covid 19 cancelling many of our planned activities. Still, a lot of us got out to play in the dirt, and there were some pretty amazing recoveries and finds.

We wish all of the members of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, filled with good times, great memories, and a multitude of recovered treasures.



## CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club was contacted by the Brentwood Co-op in March of 2020, and informed that they would be closing their meeting rooms until the Covid 19 crisis was over. The CMDC's regular meeting on the first Tuesday of every month was on hold. By the middle of April, the Alberta government banned all meetings of over 15 people. With the second wave this virus seems to be getting, and infection rates in December of over 1600 new cases a day, the Co-op has still not opened their meeting rooms for public use. Our monthly club meetings at the Co-op are still on hold 9 months later.

I am hoping that all of you have kept healthy through the last few months, that that you have had a wonderful holiday season. Winter may put the hobby on hold for some of us. Other hardy souls are still out there digging in the snow. Remember to be safe while enjoying the hobby or living your "everyday lives". Ensure safe distances and safe meeting practices. We will send out more information when we have it, but right now it looks like it will be a while before we can hold "in-person" meetings. We should think about some alternatives.

There have been other clubs that have been getting together for some conversation about their hobby by holding Zoom meetings on the computer. It wouldn't be a club meeting - just a time for a few interested detectorists to meet up virtually. This may be something we want to think about. It would require a volunteer - we would require somebody experienced with Zoom, and with the proper programming in place to step in and host the meetings. I think that could be workable, until we are able to return to in-person club meetings. In Edmonton, they have been voting for finds of the month by submitting a photo and doing a Facebook vote. John Paterson tried that in April without much interest. but at that point I think we all thought the Covid crisis was going to over soon. That has not happened. Colleen in the Edmonton Club has a process in place for finds voting that we may be able to adapt for Calgary. Once again, that would take a volunteer to help out. If we all work together, I know we will get through this, and the club will come out stronger.

# Jeff Hornby Story

## BUZZER CONTEST WINNER 2020

Our Buzzer Contest for December 2020 was won by Jeff Hornby. It was a tight contest this year, with only two entries submitted. The random number generator was a pair of dice counting evens and odds for 7 throws. Congratulations and Thanks to Jeff Hornby for his great story. Thanks also go to Rich Nixon, who was our other entrant. Your story will show up in a future Buzzer.

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### First Real Hunt - First Gold

I started research for this hobby in the beginning of 2020 – actually years before, but not seriously. After I finally figured out what detector I wanted to buy, I chose the Equinox 800 as it has great reviews but mostly because it was fully waterproof, and I know one day I'll fall into the river with it. So I picked up my Nox in April from GPS central here in Calgary, I considered it essential =D.

So once everything was charged and ready to go, I got out the old small garden trowel and started searching my yard, spent a few days digging Hot Wheels and some change leaving big ugly holes in my yard. Because of this I was hesitant to search anywhere elsewhere. When I saw an open invitation on the CMDC to come out for a hunt in a local park I jumped on board, explained that I was a noob and had lots of questions. I ended up meeting Dale M and some others from the club, and they showed me some of the finesse I was missing on my own, like how to dig good plugs, or the importance of a pinpointer (I didn't have one yet), and the nice sturdy and sharp diggers they all had. Not to mention how they identified what they were digging before they dug it.

After I witnessed how useful those things were, I pick up a pinpointer and a good digger. At this point I went back to the yard to practice. Once I was confident that I wouldn't leave a mess - I headed out for my first solo search in a park. So I went to my nearest green space, across Centre St from my house - approx. 200 feet away. I started my search, and after about 30 mins my friend came over to see how I was doing. She asked what I was finding and had a laugh at the 13 cents I had found so far, and the 30 cents of cans I picked up. While my friend was standing there laughing at me, my detector rang out "Beep, Beep". As I bent down to start searching, she asked what I think it will be. So far, I'd had and dug a half dozen of these signals, and they were all pennies. So I told her that's a penny, and kept probing looking for it and having no luck. So my friend was still standing there giving me the gears over how long I'm searching for a penny – its easily been over 2 min of me kneeling and looking for it when I finally felt it with the probe." Aha", I said, as I started working it towards the surface, and the words left my mouth, "Ohmygod! No Way! It Can't be!"  
I pulled out a gold and diamond ring from the dirt and hand it to her. It was 18 CT with 3 diamonds. Needless to say she was blown away. So that was my first real find on my first real hunt - only had my Nox for a month. Talk about beginners luck.

Now I'm hooked! I found my second gold ring while visiting family in Manitoba, and they are all hooked now too. The funniest thing is that I found about 20 four-leaf clovers and 3 five-leaf clovers because of this hobby.

## Metal Detecting Humour

I originally found these on Detecting Diva's site at "detectingdiva.com. It has been edited a bit as it was originally written about East Coast detecting, and New York City in particular. I wanted to make it a bit more generic, to apply to more areas. I hope you get a few laughs.

### \*\*\*How to Tell if a Detectorist Hunts in the Big City\*\*\*

- If you can only hunt your spots safely from 6 am to 7 pm, you detect in the big city
- If you're approached to buy something that "fell off a truck" when hunting, you detect in the big city.
- If you need to drive 45 minutes through constant traffic before arriving at your hunting spot, you detect in the city.
- If finding gold means digging a massive 18k grill bejeweled with diamonds, you detect in the big city.
- If your detecting vehicle has rims that spin, you detect in the big city.
- If the closest thing you've ever dug to a 3 ringer is an earring with three hoops - you detect in the big city.
- If you need to stop and feed the meter every two hours when hunting, you detect in the big city.
- If you see at least 6 other hunters in your local park, and know them all by name, you detect in the big city.
- If you find an old bottle that once contained Pilsner or Baby Duck and consider it a relic, you detect in the big city.
- If your idea of heavy research means reading a map of an old park, you detect in the big city.

### \*\*\*How to Tell if a Detectorist Hunts in the Sticks\*\*\*

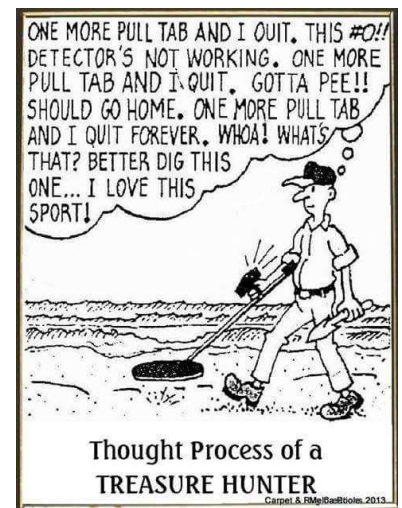
- If you need to bring along a tent, shotgun or canteen when metal detecting, you live out in the sticks.
- If you need a pick-up truck with 50" tires to get to your favourite detecting spot, you live out in the sticks..
- If you buy your batteries in the same store that you buy your ammo and bait from you live out in the sticks..
- If you are featured in the local newspaper for finding something as old as your grandpa, you live out in the sticks.
- If you need to wear snake guards while metal detecting, you live out in the sticks.
- If you make a good find and use a duck call or cell phone to alert your hunting buddy, you live out in the sticks.



I FOUND THE SAME COIN  
THREE TIMES BEFORE I NOTICED  
THE HOLE IN MY POCKET



"I think he misinterpreted the metal detector analogy in your 'seek and ye shall find' sermon!"



Thought Process of a  
TREASURE HUNTER

Cartoon & Image Database 2013

## ❄️❄️ Winter Ring Recovery ❄️❄️



I found this winter ring recovery article on Bill Jones Ring-Finders site, and it seemed like a perfect story for this time of year. Bill has been detecting for many years, and has been a part of Ringfinders for quite a while. I think Bill bought his first detector in the early 1980s, and has enjoyed the hobby ever since. I believe this ring recovery story was from January of 2014.

Bill has been a member of the Calgary Metal Detecting Club for many years, but also belongs to the organization "Ring Finders". If you want some great recovery stories you should take a look at Bill's Ringfinders site – visit <https://theringfinders.com/Bill.Jones/>.

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I received a call from Wayne. He had lost his wedding ring at Carburn Park, Calgary in the snow during a photo shoot. Wayne explained that while doing a photo shoot he wanted to capture the kids playing in the snow, he laid down on the snow and had them throw snow at him while he took their photos.

When he got up he shook the snow from his bare hands and you guessed it, the ring flew off into the snow. Despite the efforts of everyone searching for the ring by kicking and scuffing through the snow they couldn't find it. A few days later Wayne visited The Ring Finders website and called me.

We set up a time to meet at Carburn Park, Calgary and when he arrived he took me to the site which was a nice leisurely stroll through the woods. When we got there it was easy to see where the loss had happened due to all the footprints.

I knew I was looking for a Titanium Ring and so expected to hear a loud mid-tone on my metal detector with a ID# of around 55, I searched the trampled area and on my 2nd swing got an a loud mid-tone signal and an ID of 61 so I scratched at what was already compact snow until I got to terra firma, once I got to the grass I knew the target was most likely under ground which meant it couldn't be his ring.

I stood up and pinpointed it and it came up at about 4" deep but then I noticed I was getting another target about 3 inches away upon scraping the snow away I recovered Wayne's wedding band. He was very happy to get his wedding ring back and said his wife will be even happier.

The walk through the woods took about 10 minutes the recovery about 2 minutes. Another happy ending courtesy of The Ring Finders.



# **WINTER KEY RING RECOVERY**

By Peggy Kemp

In January of 2017 the CMDC email address received a request from Martin, who had lost a large set of keys in the SW Calgary community of Fairview. The keys had been lost during one of the heavy snowfalls we received that year. By the time we received the email, the set of keys had been missing for over two weeks. Although a call for volunteers was placed on the Facebook group page, I found myself with time to go out and look for Martin's keys. Calgary had warmed up a bit, so some melting had started to occur. I remember looking at the deep tire-tread ruts on the road in front of Martin's house and thinking that there had been a couple of freeze/thaw cycles in the past week. Fortunately, that little side-street had not been plowed.

I arrived on Saturday afternoon. Martin knew that he had lost his keys between his truck and the front door of the house, as his truck keys were on the ring. The keyring contained about 8 or 9 keys of various sorts, including truck, home and business-related keys, so this wasn't a small target.

I checked the area on either side of the sidewalk up to the house first. I got a few targets, but nothing that the pinpointer could locate, which meant that they were likely under-ground. I also checked along the front of the house where the snow had been shovelled. Next Martin moved the truck using his wife's keys, and I detected the road in front of the house where the truck's usual parking spot was. We found some nails, and a few metallic odds and ends, but there were no keys in the parking area in front of the house.

This got me thinking about those tire tracks and the freeze and thaw cycle I noticed earlier. Martin was sure that he had dropped the keys when he got out of the truck. He remembered putting them in his coat pocket, and figured he had missed the pocket, and they had fallen from his lap, dropping into the heavy snow.

I decided to detect along the street, in case they had been hit by a car and moved in the heavy snow on the street. 15 minutes, and about 10 feet down the road from where Martin usually parked, a loud sound hit my earphones. I dug down and retrieved a ring filled with keys. We figure the key ring had been driven over several times and knocked about by tires - but they were in good shape, and he was glad to have them back.



## **CMDC Club Membership Renewals**

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club usually looks for membership renewals starting in January. Last year we had received a number of membership renewals by early March, and were planning for a fantastic metal detecting season filled with club hunts and meetings. We had great plans for the 2020 metal detecting season.

Then Covid 19 hit. Let's face it – there were not a lot of club activities in 2020. We held a few club hunts late in the year and tried to keep active on the Facebook group site, but we haven't been able to hold a in-person meeting since March. It hasn't been the best year for getting together for meetings, and our club hunts were postponed for almost 4 months.

After discussion, the CMDC executive made the decision that any CMDC members who paid for the 2020 metal detecting season will have their club membership price extended to cover the 2021 season. So ordinarily January is when CMDC membership renewals are due – but any current club members for the 2020 season will be considered paid-up until December 2021.

## **Help Out the CMDC**

2020 has been a pretty weird year. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club is looking forward to 2021 so we can leave 2020 in our rear-view mirror. Every Spring we query the CMDC membership think about joining the club executive, helping out with the CMDC, and to help drive the club's decision-making process forward. It's a great opportunity to make a difference and help make the fabulous club of the CMDC even better. .

We welcome anyone who is willing to serve on the club executive and help the club by bringing new and exciting ideas forward, working so we can all enjoy this wonderful hobby. We already know two members of the Executive plan to step down in April. Jerry Leussink, our President, recently moved to Sundre. He won't be able to attend the meetings anymore. Peggy Kemp will also be stepping down from her role as "Publicity Director" because of family and work time-conflicts. She will remain in her role as the Buzzer editor. We need some of our members to step up and step into those roles .

If you would like to assist the club in any manner – serving on the executive board, helping out at hunts or meetings (vote counting, and 50/50 ticket sales are important too). There might be something new you think would be of benefit – please reach out to a current board member to express your interest or send an email through the CMDC.org website.

The frustrations of 2020 are moving into the past – soon we will be able to get together for meetings, club-hunts, and other fun activities. Lets all work together to make the CMDC the best club we can. Let's make 2021 a great year! Thank you all for your continued support of this great club.



## **Quick Metal Detecting Tips**

A little tip that might help save some time from digging that huge piece of pipe or cable – if you are hunting an area where a house or other building has been torn down. You can swing your coil in a cross pattern, get your target centered – and then swing the coil in a circle around the target far enough out so that you don't pick up the pin-pointed target. If you get a tone on each side of your target the chances are that it's long. This works well in areas where you know there to be long areas of metal such as pipe, wire, flashing, etc. Of course you might try digging a few times till you get the hang of it.

The key rule to metal detecting is that you want to go where the people are. Because parks are popular with every age group, they are the hotspots in their communities. And if it's an older park, you stand a great chance of finding all kinds of things, both modern and decades old. Look in old newspapers or books and try to find where people congregated around your area.

Even if you don't typically wear headphones while you are metal detecting, you'll want to have some handy if you are in an area around people. You'll want them for two reasons – so people don't get annoyed with the constant beeping of your metal detector and so the noise of the other people in the park doesn't drown out your signals. If you're finding good targets, you need to be able to hear them, so you know where to dig. Carry extra batteries. There's nothing worse than having to cut a hunting trip short because you run out of batteries. The batteries that you have in your equipment are going to run out sometime, and carrying a spare set will save you the hassle of having to stop searching to go buy more. If you use one of the metal detectors with a modern USB charger, then having a charged power-bank with an extra cable in the car will give you enough power to keep on detecting, and let you wait until you get home to do a full recharge.



## FINDING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

When I put up my Christmas Tree in December of 2020 I found a couple of ornaments still on the branches that had been accidentally left on the tree from the previous year. Of course, I have an artificial tree, so we continued to hang ornaments and finished trimming the tree.

Later that evening as I looked over my tree (which contains the usual glass balls, but also has pewter, brass and silver ornaments) - it made me think: I had to ask myself, how many other families left ornaments on their live trees, before artificial (re-useable) trees became popular. I wondered how many we could detect if we knew where those long-ago trees had been disposed of. Of course many would be used for future firewood – but not all of them. In my own experience, I found a Christmas star ornament in a playground two years ago, another ornament (or large Christmas pendant) early in my metal detecting hobby, and have found 4 or 5 Christmas pins that have fallen from coats. I am sure there are others with similar stories.

My research started with a search on eBay for vintage metal ornaments. I was surprised by the number. Not only vintage holders for live candles, but home-made ornaments cut out of tin or re-purposed out of objects around the home. In the “Depression Era” of the 1930s, it was an accepted practice to try and find a way to make a common object into something new and bright for Christmas. One example was shapes cut from food tins, and icicles cut from coffee tins, then wound around an awl or screwdriver. Another was old cookie cutter shapes painted and hung on the tree. There were also “five-and-dime” decorations available for use, and a few polished brass rumbler bells from the horses tack made it onto many Christmas trees. Of course, many ornaments were also made from foil – which most of us still find, and try to ignore.

I researched some of the more popular metal detecting forums, and discovered that although it isn't common, there are other detectorists who have found Christmas Tree ornaments. Some of the mentioned finds included a Victorian era St. Nick ornament, silver angel shapes, and others found lithograph tin ornaments. Below are some examples of metal finds that could have been missed on some long-ago Christmas tree.



Christmas Tree candle holders



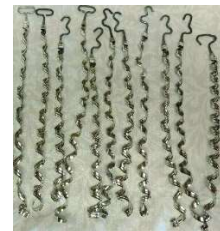
Victorian metal Star



1930s tin can tree



1950s angel in wire frame





Coffee tin icicles



## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Although cancelled until further notice, the Calgary Metal Detecting club usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store, 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. We will restart the monthly meetings after the Covid 19 crisis is over.

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p><b>GPS Central &amp; RadioWorld</b></p> <p><b>Central</b></p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment &amp; tools. Visit them on the web at <a href="http://gpscentral.ca">gpscentral.ca</a> , or the store at:</p> <p><b>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary</b>  <b>AB Canada T2G 4X2</b>  <b>403-239-1400</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The CMDC's yearly dues are:</b></p> <p><b>In-town membership:       \$25.00</b>  <b>Out-of-town membership:   \$20.00</b>  <b>Family Membership            \$40.00</b></p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC)  c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE  Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2  email: <a href="mailto:cmdcclub@gmail.com">cmdcclub@gmail.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Kevin Niefer</b>  <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i>  <b>403-968-1496</b></p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @ <a href="mailto:kevin@kevinniefer.com">kevin@kevinniefer.com</a>, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL</b>  <b>Brand Promotor</b>  <b>The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing BURN  BURN calories, BURN fat, and  Ignite your body into Thermogenesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introducing PROTEIN BARS  Premium Nutrition – Sequential Bar Technology  Lemon Meringue – Cinnamon Roll – Cookies &amp; Cream – Birthday Cake  Check this out and more on my website:  <a href="http://www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com">www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com">Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</a></p>
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**WE NEED STORIES.** 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 [kemp@telus.net](mailto:kemp@telus.net) with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.