

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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**FUN TIMES AT THE 2018 ROCHON SANDS SEEDED HUNT
ON BUFFALO LAKE**



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

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ROCHON SANDS 2018



On May 26th, 2018 members of the metal detecting community from many different areas of Alberta made their way to the tiny hamlet of Rochon Sands on Buffalo Lake for the EMDC/CMDC Rochon Sands seeded hunt. Approximately 35 detectorists participated, and a few spouses and friends showed up to enjoy the day and to show support.



The fun began early on a overcast, but dry, Saturday morning. The forecast earlier in the week had been for rain, but on Saturday the weather was overcast, promising to clear by noon. Volunteers arrived early, and began by seeding the beach area with silver coins, prize-tokens, large cents, some jewellery and huge amount of foreign currency. The beach had been recently raked, which made seeding much easier than usual. By 10:00 am eager Detectorists were arriving at the beach, registering for the event, and looking forward to a day of fun and fine recoveries. After a pre-hunt photo, excitement was in the air as people lined up, ready for the start of the first hunt. At 10:30 the contest began, and for the next half hour there was a frenzy of activity as each person looked for the seeded treasures. The area of the hunt had been seeded with de-hooked fishing lures, and any hunter who found one had to run over to the side to exchange it for a "fishie" (pre-1921 5-cent silver coin).



After the morning hunt ended, a lunch was provided for everyone who attended at the Rochon Sands community hall. It was a great chance to look at the prize table, and to get together for a meal and conversation with others hobbyists from all over Alberta. Raffle tickets and half-&-half tickets were also sold during the lunch break, and Rochon Sands Hunt-Sponsor Radioworld Central (GPS Central) had a display set up with some of the newest metal detectors, tools and technology available for sale.



A few volunteers left the lunch early to make their way back to the beach, where the hunt area was re-seeded with more coins and other "treasures". After a pre-hunt contest consisting of locating puzzle pieces in the sand, and putting together the puzzle, the second planned seeded hunt commenced. Detectorists were very busy as coils swung, shovels dug, and sand flew. There were more thrilling discoveries before happy hunters called it a day, making it back to the community hall to exchange their tokens for prizes.



Every participant was provided with door prize tickets when they registered for the event, and every hunter went home with several prizes. The door-prizes included a detector, detector related apparel, display cases, gift baskets, bottles of wine, silver and proof coins, treasure pouches and numerous detecting related hobby-items. Many of the prizes were donated by CDMC and EMDC club members, and thanks go out to them. GPS Central/RadioWorld Central donated a metal detector, gift cards, detecting tools, and other items as door prizes.



ROCHON SANDS 2018 - continued



Ralph Helms of Grande Prairie (aka GP Snoopy of the Canadian Metal Detecting Forum) won the door prize draw of the Minelab Xterra 505, which was supplied by the fine folks at Radioworld Central (GPS Central). Ralph noticed that one of the junior hunters at Rochon Sands was swinging a lower end machine, shared with other members of his family. After hearing that the whole family loved the hobby, Ralph donated his new Xterra to EMDC member Max Pinchbeck. Now Max and his twin sister no longer have to share a machine.

After the main Rochon Sands event ended many detectorists returned to the beach to continue looking for more silver coins and other missed items. By the end of the afternoon, detectorists started dwindling in number, having enjoyed a great adventure on a beautiful sunny warm day. Other events at the hunt included a mini "battle of Alberta" and a fun "skills test", where people with the highest and lowest scores both got to take home some cool items. All in all - the Rochon Sands 2018 Seeded Hunt was an great event - Congratulations and Thanks go to all the members of the EMDC that had a hand in the planning. Hunters through-out Alberta are already looking forward to another great seeded hunt at Rochon Sands next year.

Thanks to Leon Kemp for taking all the photos of the event, and for volunteering as Marshall. More Photos of the Fall extravaganza are available on the Flickr photo-sharing site at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/87747855@N02/albums>.



On the Lighter Side -

Metal Detector used to find penny in a Diaper

In Tampa Bay, Florida, a mother recently posted her story on the website "MomsLikeMe.com". The story, like many on the website covered a frustrating event in the life of the poor mother. In this case, the story was about her disgusting adventure to find a swallowed penny. It has other parents either amused or amazed.

This is one of those moments in parenthood when you are concerned about your child's health - so you will do things you would never ordinarily consider. The young mother suspected that her toddler had swallowed a penny. The mom spent the next few days sifting through one dirty diaper after another looking for the coin she believed her toddler daughter had swallowed. The family was just about ready to take the toddler to the doctor when a planned event came up. If the penny had not shown up after the event, that plan was in place. Baby-sitting had been arranged, and the toddler would be spending the weekend with her grandparents.

The grandparents were happy to have time with their youngest grandchild. However, they were not as excited about checking poop for a penny. They came up with a more creative way to find the missing loot and it worked. They grabbed the grandfather's metal detector, and hovered it over the child's abdomen. Sure enough, it would beep with a high enough sound they were sure they had located the missing penny. .

For the rest of the weekend, after each diaper change, the grandparents would use the detector to see if the missing coin was in the diaper, without touching any of the contents. Finally, they had a winner, a beeping diaper! They saved the dirty diaper for mom to check when she returned to pick up her daughter, and sure enough, there it was.

The child is fine, and the mother is keeping all spare change out of reach.

BASIC METAL DETECTING TOOLS

We are all new to the hobby at some point. A lot of folks pick up a metal detector, and think that is all they need to find treasures, and enjoy the hobby. There are a few other basic pieces that are important when starting out. Here is an idea of some other basic tools that help out in the hobby.

- Headphones
- Digging Tool
- Pin Pointer
- Gloves
- Finds Pouch

These items are not required for the hobby. You don't have to have all these items to start out in metal detecting, but each one helps. It does make it the metal detecting hobby a bit easier once you have them. Take a minute and think about each one.

Headphones: Headphones are not required as detector's have a built in speaker, but they have definite benefits. Headphones require less power from your detector - which make your batteries last longer. Using headphones attracts less attention in public areas like parks. That is a great benefit if you are detecting in a area with a lot of people around. Another benefit to headphones is that you'll be able to hear the signals better. Some targets produce very weak signals depending on how deep they are, and headphones help pick up on these very faint signals, while eliminating background noise.

Digging Tools: There are many types of digging tools. Most people starting out in the hobby will pick up a gardening tool from the local hardware store. Most will soon move up to a sturdier tool such as the Lesche or Predator Digger, or another unit designed for metal detecting. A sturdy "digger" is a great investment - it makes retrieving the target from the ground much easier, and they're built to last. My first digger was a garden trowel, but I realized after replacing several that using a digger designed for the hobby was a cost-savings in the long run. I also use a digging probe, which pops near surface grounds out of the hole.

Pin Pointer: A Pin Pointer is like a smaller version of your detector. The detector tells you there is something in the ground, and the Pin Pointer helps to locate the small object in the hole you dig. The Pin Pointer is a small hand-held device that beeps and vibrates when it gets close to the target. When looking for a coin sized object or perhaps something smaller ... a Pin Pointer makes all the difference in the world. I hunted without a pinpointer for the first year, and it made the hobby very frustrating at times. If the target you are retrieving is close to the surface, the pinpointer will tell you exactly where to dig to make your hole small and discreet. The Pin Pointer will speed up your recovery time and make the hobby much more rewarding and enjoyable. Again you don't have to have one ... but you'll be glad if you do.

Gloves: Are really a matter of personal preference. Some people only use gloves if they are working through an area with a possibility of sharp objects, while others wear them all the time. Some people use thin plastic gardening gloves, while others swear by leather. Whether or not you use them all the time, there are some locations where gloves are a necessity. Be aware that gloves can protect you from rusty nails, clan slaw, and other sharp objects under the ground.

Finds Pouch: The Finds Pouch is where you put your new found treasures and your trash. You will dig some trash! An old buried coke can sound just like a coin, and a pull-tab can sound just like a gold ring. As a part of the Metal Detecting Code of Ethics we should remove the trash we find and dispose of it properly. Most detectorists use a multiple pocket finds pouch. This will allow you to carry your tools safely, and to separate the trash from your treasures.

Now you are all set for the hobby - Bring your headphones. Put on your Finds Pouch (Don't forget bug spray and water). Bring your digger, gloves, and your pinpointer - and let's hunt the earth in search of amazing relics, coins and treasures. They are there waiting for us.

Build an Electrolysis Coin Cleaner

Electrolysis can be a great way of cleaning "crusty coins". What could take months with olive oil you can do in minutes with this easily made electrolysis unit. Of course, you must realize that while this method works, it comes with the risk of damaging your coin. Electrolysis removes a thin layer of metal from the object being cleaned, and strips the patina from a coin. If your coin could be valuable, you don't want to use electrolysis.

First you need an old Direct Current (DC) power adapter of 6 to 12 volts. Higher voltages increase risk of electrocution while not increasing the effectiveness of the cleaning process. You need to cut off the plug end, separate the two wires, and strip the plastic sleeve down to the cable enough to attach the wires to metal alligator clips. Twist the wires together, and attach the alligator clips. Use electrical tape to cover any visible wire after the clips are attached. You can find alligator clips at in the hardware department of most major retailers.



Set the adapter aside and get a glass cup, bowl, or a small glass jar. Fill it with enough water to entirely cover your coins, and mix in a couple of heaping tablespoons of washing soda (sodium carbonate) or baking soda (sodium bicarbonate). For best results use distilled water instead of tap water. Stir the soda into the water until it is dissolved. If you add a tablespoon of lemon juice to the mix it will increase conductivity.



Plug the power supply in, making sure to keep the two clips away from each other. If they touch the adapter will short out, and be ruined. Dip the clips in the soda-water mixture and note which one fizzes. Use a sharpie to mark that clip for future use. This is the end that you attach the coins to. Attach the other clip to a piece of stainless steel. You want to buy the stainless steel item from a thrift store or garage sale rather than using your own dinnerware. The stainless steel "anode" will be destroyed by the end of this process.

Stick both clips in the water, and your coin should start fizzing. Make sure the alligator clip is touching the bare metal on the coin. You may have to carefully scrape off a little of the corrosion to get to bare metal. Depending on how "crusted over" your coin is, leave it anywhere from half a minute to several minutes. The coin may fizz vigorously, but if it doesn't fizz that much - that's okay, it will just work slower. If you want faster action you can add a bit more baking soda.

You should notice a "cloud halo" starting to form around the coin. This means that the process is working. You will also notice that the water gets really dirty. This is mostly from the "anode" (stainless steel item). The electrolysis process causes the anode to dissolve into the water. You should change your water after every use, and the anode will need to be replaced to once it has become worn. The electrolysis process is pretty stinky, and the released chemicals can be toxic. This is why you want to do this in a well ventilated area.

After the first application of electrolysis, take out your coin and carefully scrub it with a toothbrush dipped in liquid soap. If you have left the coin in long enough the dirt/crud should come off after one treatment, but if there is a lot of corrosion the coin may need to go through another round of electrolysis. You can clean more than one coin at a time but you **MUST NOT** use electrolysis on more than one type of metal at the same time. If you are not sure of what type of metal your coin is, it should be cleaned separately! Different metallic coins will transfer to each other during electrolysis. I have seen silver dimes that looked pink because they gained a thin coating of copper from a penny included in the same electrolysis session.

While this article focuses on coin cleaning, electrolysis can also be used on other small items like relics, trinkets, or jewellery, etc. Some detectorists clean rust from pioneer era axes and other iron objects with a bigger application of electrolysis. I have seen axe-heads and old irons with a century of rust cleaned enough to see maker's marks and other features. They use the same basic process and materials, but create a bigger electrolysis unit by using an auto battery, larger container and jumper cables – outside during the summer.

Warnings: If you think your coin or relic has any value, you should not attempt to clean it using electrolysis. The process could render it valueless. The electrolysis unit should be used in a well-lit and ventilated area. The risk of electric shock is small, but it is still wise to use precautions. Don't leave the unit plugged in unattended when not in use because it overheats, it could cause a fire.

This article combines information from several sources, but the pictures used were from an article on "gometaldetecting.com"

Gridiron Gold Recovery

Brian Blake and John Toland were new to the hobby of metal detecting in the late 1990s when they were given permission to hunt for treasure in the small town of Kemp, Texas. John Toland had been explaining his new hobby to someone he met through work, and before he knew it, he had been given permission to hunt a 1884 era house in downtown Kemp. They arrived for the hunt one fine day in late Fall, and were excited by their finds. They only recovered some clad, a mercury dime and a few wheat pennies, but enjoyed the outing.

Late in the afternoon the owner of the house they were detecting approached them, requesting their help on behalf of a neighbour. It appeared that the Mrs Jane Parker's husband had lost a ring in her home's yard two decades before, and the ring had a great deal of sentimental value. It would mean so much if they could recover it.

The two gentlemen did not have any idea of the historic significance of the ring, and did not know anything about Mrs. Parker. When they arrived back in Kemp the next day, Mrs Parker met up with them where they were hunting, and explained that her husband Raymond "Buddy" Parker had passed away a few short years after the ring was lost. Her husband played football in the 1930s, and later coached for the NFL. Buddy Parker had been head coach for the Detroit Lions and the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1950s and 1960s. The Ring in question was an 14 Kt gold ring that had been created for the coaching staff and players of the Detroit Lions after they won the NFL Championship in 1953. Buddy Parker had been born in Kemp, and the couple decided to return to the small town after he retired from coaching.



Brian Blake and John Toland had reservations about the hunt. A ring lost so long ago could have been carried away by squirrels or pack-rats, and may not have been lost in the yard at all. But everybody knows that Texas loves football, and this was an amazing opportunity to locate some real sports history. Brian and John were excited, and agreed to give it a try. Bright and early the next morning Brian and John showed up at the house of Mrs. Jayne Parker, and began a careful grid-search of the front yard of the property. They dug out quite a few modern coins, and located the sprinkler system easily.

After it was clear to the two men that the ring was not in the front, they started detecting the back yard of the house. It only took a few moments before John Toland received a solid signal indicating something of interest about 4" down. John did not think that it was going to be "the ring". To his ears, and his old-style detector, it sounded more like solid silver coin, or maybe a bottle-cap. Still, John carefully dig through the earth, and his eyes lit up when he located something shiny. When her reached in and grabbed a handful of dirt, he was excited to see the shape of a football. The heavy 14K gold ring held a single diamond, set inside a large golden football which dominated the center of the ring. The inside of the ring was inscribed with the name of "Raymond Parker".

John and Brian ran to find Jane Parker. She was overjoyed to be reunited with her husband's prize football ring, missing for almost two decades. For Buddy Parker the often worn ring was a reminder of gridiron glory, and the early days and hey-day of the NFL. For Jane Parker it was a tangible reminder of her husband, of the great things he accomplished as a coach, and evoked memories of the early days of their marriage.

Brian Blake and John Toland were delighted. They said that the thrill of finding the ring and returning it to Buddy Parker's family will last a lifetime, as will the satisfaction of bring such happiness to another human being.

This short article was written by Peggy Kemp, and was based on a bit of research, and on the events as recounted in a much longer "first-person" narrative by detectorist Brian Blake. Brian's story was originally published in a 1999 issue of the always great "Western and Eastern Treasures" magazine. .

Internet Research Tips

By PEGGY KEMP

One of the tools that Metal Detecting hobbyists use for research is the Internet. There are many resources available on-line that can aid a hobbyist in researching where to hunt. The internet can also provide the ability to research and identify an unknown find. Some club members will recall that I often will share Internet sites that I have found useful. Below I have listed some web-site addresses that I believe would be helpful to others in the hobby.

One of my favourite sites for Alberta historical research is <http://ourfutureourpast.ca>. This site has multiple uses, as it contains aerial photographs, hundreds of books about Alberta communities and history, and old newspapers - all in digitized form. The site was an Alberta Centennial project to make information about Alberta history accessible to the public. The community books are searchable by word in chapter and in text. I have used these books to locate possible swimming holes, schools, parks and church locations from local history. The newspapers (some dating back into the 1800s) often provide information about lost items, but also contain details about social events held outdoors.

One of the best features of ourfutureourpast.ca is the aerial photo collection. Another site that provides access to aerial photos is the University of Calgary aerial photo collection available at <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/findairphotos>. Club members use the aerial photograph archives a lot - both to locate what was in an area historically, and to locate known roads and footpaths that indicate an area that might be worth hunting. I was able to locate the original sight of the Bow River School and the Hubalta train station using aerial photos.

A great research site to date a "found treasure" is the Canadian Archives site for old mail-order catalogues. In most of Western Canada, it was difficult to obtain merchandise. Only urban areas had stores with a large inventory, while smaller retailers carried only the basics. Around Calgary, these smaller communities would include the (now) annexed towns of Bowness, Forest Lawn, Renfrew, Albert Park, and Midnapore. Mail order became big business in Western pioneer society. Easton's and Sears catalogues were a common sight in many Canadian homes (and outhouses). The Government of Canada collected and digitized old mail-order catalogues in a searchable archive, which can be located at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/mailorder/index-e.html>. This collection of digitized mail order catalogues will permit searching by item type, or by year, and shows digitized images of the catalogue pages. I was able to date a coin-purse to circa 1911, and a brass soap dish to the mid-1920s by its appearance in an Eaton's catalogue from that time.

I would also like to recommend <http://canadianmetaldetecting.com>. This is a metal detecting forum, but with a Canadian focus. It contains information about everything from the best cleaning methods, to catalogues of buttons, coins, and military items. If you have found something you can't identify, you can also upload a photo of that mysterious item, detecting hobbyists from all over the country are available with years of knowledge to provide help. Many elder hobbyists are delighted to use the forum to provide tips and advice to new-comers to Metal Detecting.

Knowing where people congregated in the past is a big step in finding where long-lost items might be recovered. The Calgary Public library provides a historical postcard archive, showing favorite sights and meeting spots in Calgary from 1900 to 1960. The Library also provides a link to postcard historical location using Google-maps. Sometimes old photographs will aid a hobbyist to discover where to hunt, or where not to hunt. I have found a great resource for finding old photographs by using the Glenbow museum photograph archives. The available photographs date back to earliest Calgary history, but the Glenbow archive also provides photographs other areas around Alberta. I used the Glenbow Archive to research parks in Inglewood, Shouldice Park, and where buildings stood at the Keith tuberculosis hospital (now Baker Park). These archives can be found at :



Glenbow Museum Photo Archive: <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx>

Calgary Library Postcard Archive: <http://cdm280501.cdmhost.com/cdm/landingpage/collection/p280501coll15>

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.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.</p> <p>4120 8th Street SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 3A7 403-239-1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The CMDC's yearly dues are:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">In-town membership :</td> <td>\$25.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out-of-town membership:</td> <td>\$20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Membership</td> <td>\$40.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDCC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2 email: cmdccclub@gmail.com</p>	In-town membership :	\$25.00	Out-of-town membership:	\$20.00	Family Membership	\$40.00
In-town membership :	\$25.00						
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Family Membership	\$40.00						
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Kevin Niefer</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>See Below</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.9em; margin: 0;"><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">403-720-9501</p> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;">To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ www.kevinniefer.com - or give him a call at 403-720-9501 Email: kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL Brand Promotor The Thrive Experience by Le-Vel</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 & Cream – Birthday Cake Check this out and more on my website: www.Thrivewithbjc.thrive2point0.com Email: Thrivewithbjc@gmail.com</p>						
<p>Cochrane Dental</p> <p>311 1 St E, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z3 403-932-5498</p> <p>Dr. Dwayne Hinz</p> <p>Find us on the web at cochranedentists.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ANDY COWARD Custom Coin Jewellery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COINS2RINGS</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Facebook - coins2rings2 IG - @coins2rings Email coin2rings2@gmail.com</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 kempp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.